

## Work Pushed On Sewage, Water Jobs

City Plans Outlay  
Of \$109,576,000

Progress reports on two of the city's most ambitious projects—construction of sewage treatment plants and improvement of the water system—indicate that work is well under way and should be completed within the next four years.

Recommended by the City Planning Commission are sewage disposal projects costing \$71,597,000 and improvements to the water system estimated at \$37,979,000—a total of \$109,576,000.

### WILL REDUCE POLLUTION

The sewage program, when completed, will reduce pollution in the Schuylkill and Delaware, and with construction of new sewers as part of the program, will improve drainage and flood control.

In this connection, three huge projects are already under way.

Construction of the Northeast Sewage Treatment Works at Wheat-sheaf lane and Richmond st. is about 70 percent complete and should be finished by the spring of 1950.

### TO HELP NORTHEAST

This plant will treat sewage from that part of the city lying northeast of Allegheny ave. It was started first in order to assist in the reduction of pollution of the Delaware River, from which the city draws half its water supply.

Work on the building of the Southwest Sewage Treatment Works, at Swanson st. and Packer ave. on the Delaware, was started in November and is expected to be partially completed in 1951 and fully completed by 1952.

Preliminary work on the Southwest Sewage Treatment Works on land owned by the city near the International Airport has begun, but actual construction will start in the spring. It is estimated that this plant will be partially completed in 1951 and ready for full operation in 1953.

### INVOLVES SEWER-BUILDING

The sewage treatment project also entails the building of intercepting sewers to collect all of the city's sewage and convey it to the three plants for treatment before it is discharged into the rivers.

On the water improvement project, the City Planning Commission has reported that progress is being made by the Department of Public Works toward the objective of a supply of water that will be "adequate, healthful and free from disagreeable tastes and odors."

### PROJECTS OUTLINED

The water improvement work included:

Installation of an ozone plant at the Belmont Pumping Station at a cost of \$1,000,000. The plant is scheduled for early operation and will provide an adequate and palatable supply for West Philadelphia and Overbrook. Also installation of new filter equipment.

Installation of temporary carbon feeding facilities at Torresdale Pumping Station to improve the water taste at a cost of \$400,000 and a new filtered pumping station.

### NEW FOX CHASE UNIT

A new filtered pumping station at Fox Chase.

A new child's house at East Park Reservation.

New filter equipment for the Queen Lane station.

These and other improvements, including the construction of many new lines connecting new homes, are well under way, with nearly \$5,000,000 worth of contracts having been let during the last year.

## A-4 PRIORITY OK'D TOO LATE TO HELP IN '42

Old System Nearing  
Peak of Capacity;  
Repairs Frequent.

By LEEDS MOBERLEY

Philadelphia's whole war production program is in danger because of the precarious condition of our run-down waterworks.

### System Burdened.

The hundreds upon hundreds of millions of dollars in defense contracts placed in this key industrial center have imposed a burden which the system is in no condition to bear.

The granting of an A-4 priority last night for materials needed to put the long-delayed \$18,000,000 rehabilitation program into effect came too late to solve the problem this year.

### Consumption Increases.

Consumption is now running upwards of 330,000,000 gallons a day—25,000,000 to 30,000,000 above normal—and when the hot weather peak demand comes consumption will rise perilously close to the system's maximum capacity of 400,000,000 gallons a day.

Nor do those figures take into account any further increase in demand resulting from new industries locating in Philadelphia or expansion of existing plants.

### Wheezy Old Pumps.

For about 75 percent of its supply the city is dependent upon the wheezy old steam pumps at the Queen Lane and Lardner's Point stations that have been in service since as far back as 1903.

Breakdowns at Lardner's Point, which supplies nearly half the city, have become increasingly frequent in recent years, but Water Bureau engineers have managed thus far to keep enough of the over-age pumps and boilers in service to avert catastrophe. The newest equipment there was installed in 1908.

### \$65,000 for Repairs.

Queen Lane, where the equipment is not quite so archaic (most of the boilers were installed in 1912 but one was installed as recently as 1927) has given less trouble, but the situation at both plants has become

## CITY RUSHES START OF WATER WORK

Priorities Granted, Bids  
for Improved System  
to be Asked soon

Bids for \$7,000,000 worth of materials and equipment for the city's water system will be sought in the near future, Director of Public Works John H. Neeson said today.

Under priorities granted last night by the War Production Board, a start will be made on the \$18,000,000 improvement program, but the job cannot be done to the extent planned originally, Neeson said.

He added that work would be begun as soon as possible on filters, piping for the filter pumping plant and electrical machinery for driving pumps at the Torresdale pumping station, on a new filter and a new chemical building at the Queen Lane station; on electrical installations at the Lardner's Point station, and on reconstruction of large mains elsewhere.

The city was required to curtail the original program because of the metal shortage. It has agreed to use concrete piping instead of iron and steel wherever possible.

The rating on priorities given to the city is A-4, which is the highest granted to municipalities.

"We have been trying for five months to obtain a rating so we might rehabilitate the water system," Neeson said. "I have been to Washington ten times to point out how critical our situation is."

"After two or three conferences, we agreed we would reduce our requirements for cast and wrought iron and steel, sheet steel, reinforcing steel, copper, bronze, manganese and other metals from 49,900 to 33,600 tons, substituting concrete pipes for iron and steel pipes."

"The Federal officials realized our water system could not operate without rehabilitation, and they also realized that the great defense industries in Philadelphia could not function without an adequate water supply."

"The priority rating means we can proceed with part of our program, we must delay part of it, and the war effort

## WELLS WOULD PROVIDE 22,000,000 GALS. DAILY

Plans to Drill them here  
Disclosed by Owen

The city's water supply would be increased by about 22,000,000 gallons daily if plans to drill between 20 and 25 artesian wells in South Philadelphia go through.

That was estimated here by Director of Public Works John H. Neeson after the plans were disclosed in Washington at a meeting of a conference of mayors by Dr. Hubley R. Owen, chairman of the Philadelphia Council of Defense.

Neeson said the project, which would include a chlorination and filtering plant, would cost about \$1,750,000, and that it could be included in the \$18,000,000 water rehabilitation program.

If the project is approved, the wells would be sunk in the region west of Broad st. and south of Pattison av. Neeson said that further north the mineral content of the water is too high.

Water from the wells would be used to reinforce the supply in the area between the Schuylkill and Delaware rivers, south of Washington av., where are located the Navy Yard, the Quartermaster Depot and Government defense housing projects.

## U. S. AIDES STUDY CITY WATER NEEDS

Two Federal engineers, sent to Philadelphia by the newly-created War Production Board, yesterday visited filtration plants and pumping stations in connection with the city's proposed \$18,000,000 water improvement program.

With John H. Neeson, Director of Public Works, and Seth M. Van Loan, engineer in charge of the improvement program, the WPB officials made an inspection tour to determine how badly the city's water system needs attention.

### Priorities Issue

Presumably, Neeson said, the engineers will report back to the board on Philadelphia's request for priorities on materials needed to undertake the program.

Steel is the most difficult of all materials to get, Neeson said. He has been trying for three months to get priorities. Council has authorized, and the voters have approved, the sale of \$18,000,000 in bonds to pay for the project. More than \$7,000,000 worth already have been sold.

## OBTAINS PRIORITIES FOR WATER SYSTEM

Director of Public Works John H. Neeson announced yesterday he had obtained a compromise agreement on priorities which will enable the city's \$18,000,000 water system rehabilitation program to go forward.

Substitutions of materials will be necessary in some instances, work will be slowed and some portions of the program may be held up "for the duration," he indicated.

### ON IMPORTANT ITEMS

But priorities on the "more important things," he said, had been obtained in the latest of a series of visits he made to Washington, and from which he returned to his office yesterday.

Despite the substitutions, Neeson said he believed the rehabilitation of the physical plant of the water system would cost no more than the originally-estimated \$18,000,000, and would be just as durable and satisfactory.

### TO USE LESS STEEL

Substitutions, he said, would include such things as the use of reinforced concrete in building pump houses instead of structural steel construction, and the use of concrete instead of steel tanks.

Metal needed for pumps, he said, would be obtained through priorities.

## CHLORINE SUPPLIES ASSURED FOR CITY

Use for Disinfecting of  
Water will not be Cut,  
U. S. Officials say

By RAYMOND C. BRECHT  
(A Bulletin Staff Correspondent)

Washington, Jan. 28.—Although chlorine is one of the most widely used chemicals in war manufacture, enough of it will be available for the purification of Philadelphia's drinking water supply.

That was indicated here today in an announcement by the Chemicals and Allied Products Branch of the new War Production Board.

Officials said that despite a general shortage, the use of chlorine for the disinfecting of water supplies will not be curtailed.

The importance of this chemical in water and sewage treatment, it was explained, is such that it is being accorded a high priority rating over other civilian needs and even over some war demands.

### Ends City's Concern

The announcement of the Chemicals and Allied Products Branch answers a question that has been of considerable concern among Philadelphia officials for some weeks.

Hubley R. Owen, Director of Defense and chairman of the Philadelphia Council of Public Defense, made inquiries about the situation when he was here two weeks ago to attend the U. S. Conference of Mayors in behalf of Acting Mayor Bernard Sarvel.

At that time, Dr. Owen said he had heard Mayor LaGuardia, U. S. Civilian Defense Director, mention that chlorine would be subject to the priorities system. "I became interested," said Dr. Owen, "because we want to be sure we will have enough for our drinking water."

He also pointed out that chlorine is important in laundry and hospital use, which would affect many Philadelphia institutions.

### Study Plan to Drill Wells

Dr. Owen disclosed at the same time that city officials were studying a plan to drill artesian wells in Southwest Philadelphia to create an auxiliary source of water for defense purposes and in case an air raid should damage the municipal water system.

Meanwhile, it was announced today that Philadelphia traffic policemen and auxiliary officers will have a chance to attend a War Traffic School for six days beginning February 9.

Experts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and outstanding traffic engineers will conduct a course in matters generally with application to problems that may arise in the event of an air raid.

## Assembly Set For Battles On Key Bills

Phila. Reform and Tax  
Fights Face Session  
Starting on Tuesday

By DUKE KAMINSKI  
Of The Bulletin Staff

Harrisburg, Jan. 1.—A drive to improve Philadelphia's city government will share top billing with Governor Duff's \$80,000,000 welfare program and a slam-bang battle over taxes when the Legislature convenes this week.

The 138th session of the General Assembly will be called to order at noon Tuesday against a political background that may find the red-haired governor from Pittsburgh pitted against the more conservative forces in his own Republican Party.

Duff today is completing his opening message, to be delivered to a joint session of House and Senate at 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, after both houses complete their organization.

The message, expected to take only 20 minutes to deliver, will call primarily for an expansion of Pennsylvania's public health, welfare and conservation programs. It was described as a message that will propose in concise terms "the things the public is demanding of government."

### Phila. Reform Situation

There was no indication whether Duff would mention the swelling demand for reform in Philadelphia, but there was no doubt the legislators would find this one of the meatiest subjects on the agenda.

Whatever battles were in the offing, they would have to be fought out by a legislative lineup still Republican-dominated but showing substantial increases in Democratic strength. In the House, there will be 117 Republicans and 91 Democrats—with 105 votes a majority. The Senate will have 35 Republicans and 15 Democrats—with 26 a majority.

How these legislators will line up on proposals for consolidation of Philadelphia's city-county government, a new city charter and other local reforms will be one of the major developments of the session.

At the same time, Governor Duff,

## Start of Project To Purify Water Held Up 9 Mos.

Ozone Test Plant at Belmont to Take  
Another 3; Year More Will Be Needed  
To See If the Process Is Effective

By JOHN G. McCULLOUGH of The Bulletin Staff

A \$1,000,000 experiment to find out whether Philadelphia can get good water without spending half a billion dollars or so developing new sources is nine months behind schedule, and will be delayed at least another three, city officials acknowledged yesterday.

The experiment is the treatment of water through ozonation. The ozone equipment, which cost \$600,000, has been ready at the Belmont filter station in West Philadelphia for three months, but the City has not completed other work to get the plant into operation.

The ozone process was ordered

in an effort to decide if the city can continue to use the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers here as its source of water. The alternative is to bring the water from upstate.

Ozonation, a departure from the filtration methods used for years, was recommended by a special water commission appointed by the mayor in 1945. It was part of a general improvement and expansion program suggested for the present system.

### 36 Million Gallons a Day

Whether or not the City finally would have to develop a new source, the water commission reported, would depend on the success of ozonation and the general rehabilitation of the system in producing an adequate supply of healthful, palatable water.

The ozone plant at the Belmont works, Belmont av. and Ford road, was placed under contract in the spring of 1947. It is expected to make 36,000,000 gallons of water taste-free and odor-free each day for the West Philadelphia area.

At the time, Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Water Bureau, pointed out that the plant would be the largest of its kind in the United States. Other ozonation systems, he said, are treating less than 5,000,000 gallons daily.

Taylor yesterday attributed most of the delay to the vastness of the experiment. The bureau has encountered, he said, almost continuous engineering difficulties and shortages in material and skilled personnel.

Ozonation, its backers claim, will eliminate tastes and odors regardless of their source. The present Belmont system uses sand filters along with the standard chlorination method, and the ozone is to be used before the water goes through these processes.

### Spark Sets Up Gas

Ozone is a gas, and is to be manufactured at Belmont by passing cleaned and dried air across a powerful electric spark. It will then be bubbled up through the water in tanks, combining with impurities to make them easy to remove. "A great deal of the delay," Taylor said, "has been due to the necessity for making engineering changes."

"Among other things we have had to consider the expected life of the equipment and its performance under different circumstances, as well as the results of possible breakdowns. The system has not been used here before on this scale, and we cannot afford a margin for error when we must supply the daily needs of hundreds of thousands of people."

The plant was originally expected to be completed by the end of 1947.

## Heavy Doses of Alum Used at Filter Plant

Alum, lots of it, is being dumped into the water at the Torresdale filter station, but it has nothing to do with the "gassy, brassy, phenol" taste that's been bothering about half the city.

The alum, officials said, is being used in increased doses to combat turbidity caused by the recent rains. The alum causes impurities to settle to the bottom of the filter basins.

Samuel Cirelli, superintendent of the plant, said it was first hoped that the heavy rains might help dilute the wastes causing the tarry taste. Instead they created a new problem by churning up the river.

## Water Works Priorities

IT is good news to Philadelphians that questions of priority for waterworks improvements have been settled so that so far as materials are concerned the work can now go forward.

The City is far behind on its waterworks rehabilitation, which for some years has been described as being of the greatest urgency if disastrous interruptions of service were to be avoided.

A great deal of the delay has, of course, been beyond City Hall's control. Drawing specifications is a baffling task when no one can be certain what new restrictions tomorrow's war production program will impose.

The fact that the City is now planning to get through with 36,000 instead of 49,300 tons of metal testifies not only to the difficulties of the Department of Public Works in designing the improvements, but also to a certain effectiveness in the priorities rationing system.

Meanwhile water consumption is rising rapidly and there is concern over a possible shortage in the summer. Council has never heeded the advice it has received so often to conserve water by metering the unmetered services and by a scientific schedule of charges.

Philadelphia Water Department  
Historical Collection  
2004.019.0001A



# War Plants Face System Near Peak

[Continued From First Page]

so desperate that Director of Public Works John H. Neeson is getting a special appropriation of \$65,000 for emergency repairs. The \$18,000,000 rehabilitation program which was to have given Philadelphia an up-to-date dependable water supply, purification and distribution system, already is a year behind schedule. The expenditure was authorized by the voters two years ago following a survey. It was necessary, however, to design the filter beds, pumps, etc., and that required nearly a year. By that time the city was faced with priorities. Neeson tried hard to get a blanket priority rating for the whole program, making many trips to Washington to explain the critical conditions to officials of the War Production Board and its predecessor, the Office of Production Management. By revising the plans to substitute concrete for iron, steel and other critical materials, the metal requirements were cut from 49,900 to 33,600 tons. Government officials originally said that priorities should be applied for piecemeal by the various contractors and subcontractors. That would have caused hopeless confusion, Neeson said. **Not a Top Priority.** While A-4 is far from a top priority, it is as high as any being granted to municipalities. Neeson said it would enable him to call for bids on \$7,000,000 worth of equipment and materials. Work will be started on installation of two new electric pumps at the Queen la. station and on other improvements. In the meantime, the Dravo Corporation, of Pittsburgh, successful bidder on the nine new electrically driven pumps to be installed at Lardner's Point, managed somehow on its own initiative to get an A-2 priority, which is well up. Dravo will begin installation of two of the new pumps late in the summer, but they cannot be placed in service in time to help take care of the peak load. **Hopes to End Waste.** The only real hope Neeson sees of averting a summer pinch is to lighten the load on the overtaxed system by eliminating waste. Pitometer (waste water) surveys carried on as a WPA project resulted in savings of 9,000,000 gallons a day during 1941 and Neeson hopes to save an equal amount this year. The job is simple enough—crews measure the flow at two different points on the same pipe. If the amount decreases, they look for a leak. **Main Break Discovered.** At 3d and Dickinson sts., pitometer crews discovered a main break which showed no surface evidences whatever; the water was draining away under the surface, 100,000 gallons a day. As an adjunct of the pitometer surveys, Neeson is preparing to launch a poster campaign for conservation of water by consumers. The chief source of domestic waste, he said, is leaky faucets. A mere drip from a spigot can mean the loss of up to 640 gallons of water in 24 hours. The waterworks rehabilitation program probably would have been finished before this—and at less cost to the taxpayers too—but for the reluctance of Philadelphia officials to accept New Deal assistance. **Wilson Pleaded Vainly.** The late Mayor S. Davis Wilson pleaded in vain with City Council to apply for money from the old Public Works Administration (which made outright grants of 45 percent of the cost of projects) not only to rehabilitate the waterworks but to complete the long-overdue sewage disposal plant and finance other important capital improvements. Council turned a deaf ear until the early fall 1938. Then, with a sudden change of heart, it gave Neeson just two weeks to prepare water and sewage disposal projects for submission to PWA. Neeson (then chief of the Bureau of Engineering, Surveys and Zoning) made good on his part of the job by working himself and his staff day and night. But it was wasted effort; PWA by that time had given out all its funds to more enterprising communities. **Also Blames Priorities.** Last night, Acting Mayor Bernard Samuel also blamed priorities for his administration's failure to rehabilitate the water system. But he assured representatives of 24 community and civic organizations of Northeast Philadelphia that eventually Philadelphia would have the "best water system in the United States." He addressed a dinner meeting of the Northeast Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce at the Torresdale-Frankford Country Club, Grant st. and Frankford ave. 2

## System Cuts Dependence on City Supply; Neeson Speeds Repairs

See editorial, "Short of Vision Yesterday; Short of Water Today."

By LEEDS MOBERLY

The Philadelphia Navy Yard has built its own auxiliary water supply system as a precaution against a serious breakdown in the antiquated city waterworks.

It was installed a year ago, it was learned yesterday, in apparent anticipation of the present situation, when the intensified demands of defense industries are taxing the city's overage pumping stations to the danger point.

### Needs Cut by Half.

The yard's own waterworks are now supplying the bulk of its domestic and industrial needs so that its consumption of water from the city mains has been cut to half the former 2,000,000 gallons a day. In any emergency the city water could be dispensed with entirely. The source of supply is five artesian wells with an output of 700 gallons a minute each—a combined capacity of about 5,400,000 gallons a day compared with a need of about 3,000,000.

### Neeson Speeds Work.

Meanwhile, Director of Public Works John H. Neeson, armed with an A-4 priority rating, announced full speed ahead on the long-delayed \$18,000,000 waterworks rehabilitation program, which is now a year behind schedule. He revealed that bids on \$2,000,000 worth of work will be opened in the next three and a half weeks.

## CITY SPEEDS UP BIDS ON WATER PROGRAM

Armed for the first time with a Federal priority, Philadelphia moved swiftly yesterday to invite bids for units of the \$18,000,000 waterworks rehabilitation program.

Bids for approximately \$1,000,000 worth of materials will be received by April 15, it was announced by John H. Neeson, Director of Public Works.

### OTHER BID PLANS LAID

On April 8, he said, bids will be opened for power transformers, electric switch gears and a control switchboard for the Torresdale filter plant in the Northeast. On the same day, bids will be opened for sludge collection equipment and mining equipment for the rapid sand filter beds, also at Torresdale.

Bids on a preliminary treatment works to be installed at the Queen Lane filter plant will be received and opened on April 15.

### A-4 PRIORITY OBTAINED

In addition, Neeson said, some \$5,000,000 of other work and equipment will be the near future.

It was not until last night that Neeson received an A-4 priority for the water rehabilitation program.

Previously he had obtained priorities on certain of the needed pumping equipment. The pumps are already on order and will be received here for installation before the end of this year.

## SHORT OF VISION YESTERDAY; SHORT OF WATER TODAY

Mrs. Philadelphia water? That's the question city officials ultimately must answer, as defense plants lay new and greater burdens on the city's decrepit water supply system.

The Mayor and his aides blame the situation on priorities.

Truth is, priorities are not to blame for the plight in which our City Fathers find themselves. An A-4 priority has been granted on materials required to complete the long-delayed \$18,000,000 rehabilitation program. That's as high as any priority granted municipalities in these days of total war.

But under that priority, the city can't hope to complete the immediately needed improvements this year. Hence, there may be a shortage, especially during the summer months.

To blame Uncle Sam for that, however, is to forget completely the fact that the City Fathers since the early 1930's have put off water plant improvements year after year—and never began to get interested in them until the war made it look as if machinery might be hard to get.

This newspaper has been campaigning for a better water system for more than 10 years. And if the G. O. P. Organization running City Hall objected to taking suggestions from us—

It needed only to hearken to Chief Van Loan, of the Water Bureau, one of Council's own appointees, who told them five years ago:

That one of the two 60,000,000-gallon pumps at Belmont station was completely out of commission; and that failure of the other pump would leave a third of the city without water; That at Queen Lane station only three out of 11 boilers were fit for operation, most of them being 30 years old, and the "newer" pumps 15 to 20 years old;

That the filters at Torresdale were clogged, and the 40-year-old boilers at Lardners Point were working 24 hours a day.

Since then, minor repairs have been made, largely through W. P. A.

But the big job, the job of thorough rehabilitation, the City Fathers put off and off until, for political reasons, a referendum finally was held on an \$18,000,000 bond issue for water improvements.

The public overwhelmingly approved that water bond issue—TWO YEARS AGO.

Yet even then—long before we were seriously affected by the war—Council chose to do nothing. The bonds were not sold. Improvements were not made.

After a year had passed, not a cent of the 18 millions had been spent.

Only last fall, when election pressure again became effective, did the City Fathers begin to bestir themselves. But even now, very little has been done.

With water consumption now running 25,000,000 gallons a day above normal, and summer ahead—

Those years of indifference will be paid for—in needless consumer hardships and dangers of water shortages in defense factories.

Let the responsibility be placed where it belongs:

On the City Fathers, who couldn't imagine missing the water until the well ran dry.

# INSTRUCTION MANUAL FOR BASIC COURSES

## PENNSYLVANIA CITIZENS' DEFENSE CORPS

The Official Instruction Manual, prepared by the Institute of Local and State Governments, University of Pennsylvania, for the Penna Council of Defense is being printed in its entirety in The Evening Bulletin, in a form convenient for pasting into a scrapbook, so that all members of the Corps and the general public may acquire a copy of this valuable study and reference guide.

### General Course

#### Introduction

A. The purpose of a local organization for civilian protection is to provide a "passive" defense against enemy air raids and to protect civilian life and property.

B. Passive defense is designed to minimize the effects of enemy bombardment.

1. Enemy objectives in air raids are:

- To destroy or cripple defense production activities.
- To disorganize communication and transportation, and
- To break down the morale of the civilian population by creating fear and panic.

2. The enemy can be frustrated by proper organization of counter measures and training of service squads to:

- Control the movements of the population during a raid,
- Direct the public to maximum shelter available and instruct them in taking cover,
- Repair broken mains, power and gas lines,
- Reopen streets and restore communications,
- Extinguish incendiary fires before conflagrations are started,
- Rescue persons trapped in demolished houses and buildings,
- Render prompt first aid and hospitalization to the wounded, and
- Provide food and shelter for those made homeless by enemy bombardment.

C. Citizens' Defense Corps are being organized and trained to protect civilians

1. Civilian defense workers are entrusted with important responsibilities:

- They must understand a multitude of duties to the point of performing them almost automatically.
- They must have sound judgment and leadership in emergencies.
- They must have the courage and willingness to withstand long, difficult hours of work.

2. Properly trained workers plus civilian preparedness will avert panic and widespread devastation.

### BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ARM BAND CERTIFICATION CITIZEN'S DEFENSE CORPS UNITS

	GENERAL COURSE	FIRE DEFENSE A	FIRE DEFENSE B	GAS DEFENSE A	GAS DEFENSE B	FIRST AID	FIRST AID	NO. OF COURSES	NO. OF HOURS
Hours Required	5	3	7	2	3	10	20		
Total No. Units	16	9	2	15	5	9	2		
Staff	✓	✓		✓		✓		4	20
Messengers	✓	✓		✓		✓		4	20
Drivers*	✓			✓	✓	✓		4	20
Auxiliary Firemen	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		5	27
Rescue Squads	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	6	40
Auxiliary Police	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		5	23
Bomb Squads	✓			✓	✓	✓		3	18
Air Raid Wardens	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		5	23
Fire Watchers	✓	✓		✓				3	10
Emergency Food & Tasting Corps	✓			✓				2	7
Medical Corps*	✓			✓			✓	3	27
Nurses' Aides*	✓			✓			✓	3	17
Demolition & Clearance Crews	✓	✓		✓				3	10
Road Repair Crew	✓	✓		✓				3	10
Decontamination Squads	✓			✓	✓	✓		4	20
Utilities Repair	✓			✓				2	7

\*Additional specialized courses are required as part of the basic training for Drivers, Medical Corps and Nurses' Aides.

† If the 10-hour course is not offered, the twenty-hour course must be taken.

NOTE:—Drill is optional; not included in totals of courses or hours required.

All members of Corps Units are required to take certain basic training courses to qualify for Arm Bands. The above table is a quick reference guide to training courses required of members of each of the several Corps

### General Course, Unit I—1 to 1½ Hours CIVILIAN DEFENSE ORGANIZATION

#### A. United States Office of Civilian Defense

1. Functions include planning, co-ordination, advice,

- Initial planning and execution of programs designed to protect civilian life and property in air raid emergencies.
- Promotion of activities designed to sustain national morale and to create opportunities for constructive civilian participation in the defense program.
- Advice and assistance to State and local councils of defense through:
  - Regional offices, which are the field offices of the OCD and from which liaison officers are assigned to the States;
  - Division of State and local co-operation, which works with State and local authorities in organization and civilian protection problems;
  - Literature on training standards and requirements, organizational problems, and the subject matter of civilian defense. These publications are sent to the State Council of Defense, which in turn supplies the county and local defense councils in Pennsylvania.

2. Regional offices co-ordinate and advise.

a. The regions of the U. S. Office of Civilian Defense are coterminous with the Army corps areas. There are nine regions, each with a regional office. Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia are in the third region, with headquarters at Baltimore, Maryland.

b. Two liaison Army officers have been assigned from the Third Regional Office to the Pennsylvania Council of Defense to aid in civilian defense problems, particularly the planning and establishment of local control centers.

### B. Pennsylvania State Council of Defense

1. Council established by legislative act and executive proclamation.

a. The State Council of Defense Act of 1941 authorized the Governor to create by proclamation a State Council of Defense to co-ordinate State and local activities related to national and State defense.

b. The Governor established the State Council of Defense by proclamation on April 17, 1941.

- c. The Council consists of:
- The Governor, who is chairman,
  - The Lieutenant Governor,
  - The State Treasurer,
  - Auditor General,
  - Secretary of Internal Affairs,
  - Adjutant General,
  - President pro tempore of the Senate,
  - Speaker of the House of Representatives,
  - A citizen appointed by the Governor,
  - A citizen appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, and
  - A citizen appointed by the Speaker of the House.

2. Functions include co-ordination, research, special programs.

a. Co-operation with OCD and other Federal agencies in civilian protection and such programs as physical fitness, salvage, and rationing.

b. Advice to and co-operation with local governments in problems of civil defense and civilian protection.

c. Direction of the Victory Garden and American Unity programs in the State.

d. Co-ordination of local defense activities, such as civilian protection organization and citizens defense corps training, rough eight field directors, State Air Raid and Fire Warden, and by means of literary and arrangements with the American Red Cross, the American Legion, the Boy Scouts of America, the automobile associations, and other cooperating agencies and organizations.





## Broken Water Main Threatens Expensive Projector

The projector finally was saved when the curator, Dr. Fitz-Hugh Marshall, and two assistants, working in their bare feet, operated the machinery raising the projector to the auditorium floor, out of danger of the flood.

The break occurred about 3 a. m. in a water main along West Ohio St. near the Planetarium and sent water flooding down the streets as far as West Park.

Exhibits in the basement of the building—the Hall of Light and the Micro Zoo, valued at \$50,000—were flooded, but may be ready for shows late today.

The Hall of Light, on the lowest level, was the last to be cleared of water but, upstairs, the regular sky show, "Colors in the Sky," was presented at 10 a. m.

When the main burst, one man knocked down by the rush of the water said he thought Hitler had arrived.

**Traffic Routed From Area**  
The street buckled over an area of about 25 feet square and traffic had to be routed away from the area.

Fire hydrants in the vicinity were turned on to reduce pressure on the broken main.

## Ratings Will Be Assigned on Basis of Specific Requirements.

WASHINGTON, March 21. —

J. S. Knowlson, WPB Director of Industry Operations, said most of the blanket rating will be revoked or allowed to expire between April 1 and June 30. Companies operating under these blanket ratings will then be required to apply for priority assistance under the production requirement plan, he said.

"The rapidly increasing materials requirements of the war program make it impractical to continue use of preference ratings which have been assigned under existing 'P' orders to whole industries, without any exact check of the amount of material which such ratings may be used to obtain.

**Quarterly Applications.** "Under the production requirements plan, a company makes a single application for priority assistance covering all of its estimated needs over a three-month period. The applicant must submit full information as to his inventories, the end use of his products, etc.

"Priority ratings are assigned on the basis of such application to permit producers of products essential to the war effort or minimum civilian needs to obtain specified quantities of material during a quarter. Interim applications may be filed when a company needs additional materials because of increased war or other essential business.

3. State Council supervises civilian protection.

(4) The County Director of Civilian Defense Schools, appointed by the county council of defense, is responsible for the basic and special duty training of citizens' defense corps workers in each county.

All publications of the United States Office of Civilian Defense and the State Council of Defense are supplied to the county councils of defense which in turn distribute them to the local councils.

C. Municipal defense councils direct local civilian defense.

(1) The functions of local defense councils are varied. They include the enrollment and training of volunteer workers; participation in salvage programs; planning and conducting of community programs related to defense, such as health, recreation, and welfare programs; study of the defense aspects of such problems as housing, transportation, consumers' interest, and labor supply. Local councils are also responsible for the line function of organizing and directing civilian protection from air raids.

(2) The organization chart (Figure 1) gives a generalized picture of local defense organization. Wide variations exist among communities in Pennsylvania. In most municipalities

### 1. Councils of Defense.

**A. Establishment authorized by  
State Council of Defense Act**

(1) The State Council of Defense (Act (1941) P. L. 6, Act No. 3) authorizes each political subdivision to establish a local council of defense by proclamation of the executive officer or governing body.

(2) Local councils are established to co-operate with and assist the State Council and to perform such services as the State Council requests. In so far as applicable, local councils have the same powers and duties within their jurisdictions as the State Council.

(3) More than 700 county and local defense councils have been established in Pennsylvania.

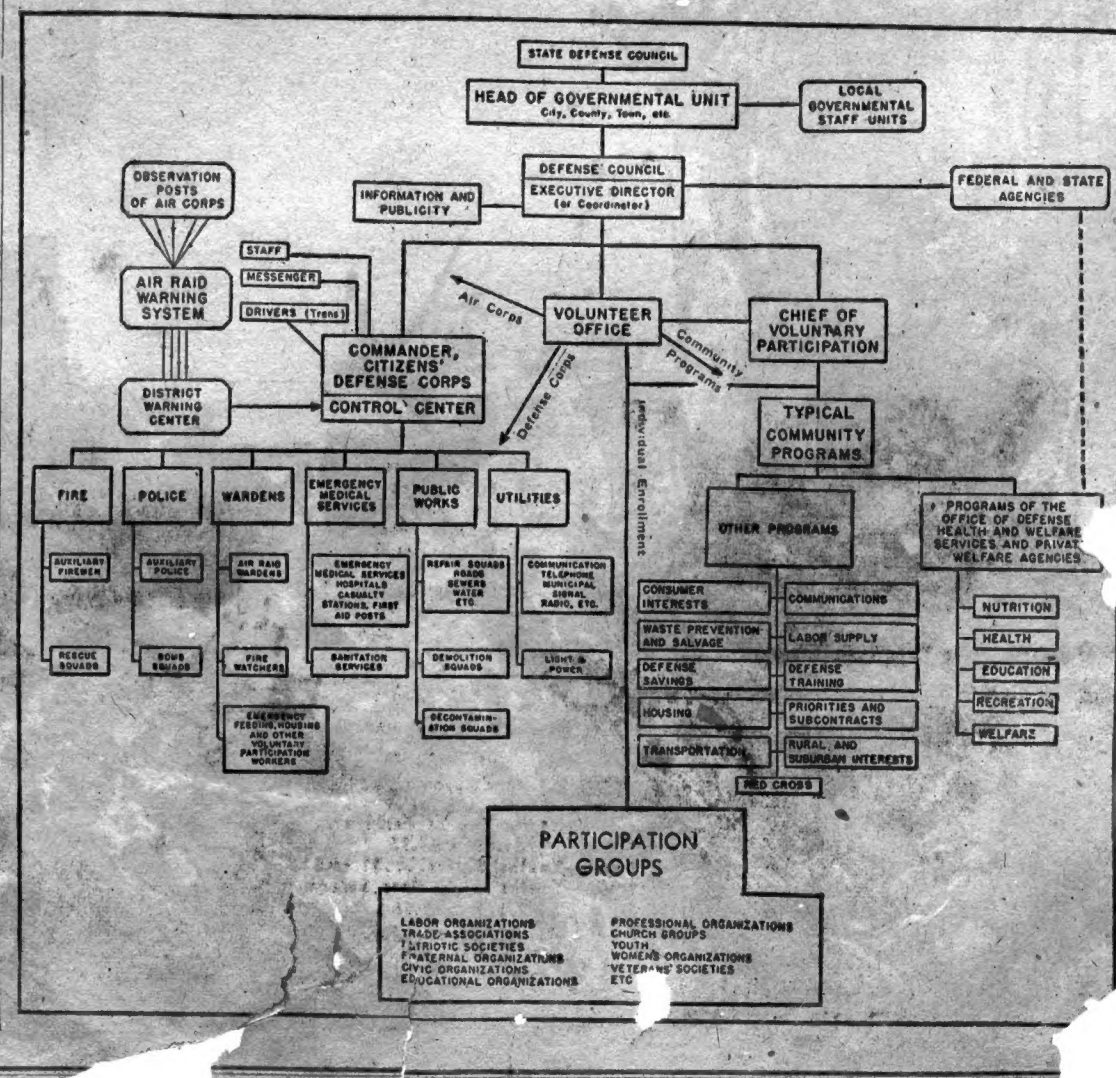
**B. County defense councils are hubs of civilian protection activities.**

(1) The county council of defense, headed by a chairman, is in control of defense activities in each county. All aspects of the State defense program—training, salvage, rationing, victory gardens, etc.—clear through the county defense council.

(2) In each county, there is a Chief Air Raid Warden who is appointed by and responsible to county defense council. The air raid warden for the county advises on and supervises air raid defense activities in his country and approves the selection of zone, sector and post wardens.

(3) There is a Chief Fire Warden for each county under the supervision of one of the 35 Zone Fire Warden. In the training of auxiliary firemen. County Fire

Suggested by U.S. Office of Civilian Defense



•(Continued Tomorrow)



## INSTRUCTION MANUAL FOR BASIC COURSES

## PENNSYLVANIA CITIZENS' DEFENSE CORPS

This is the Second installment of the Official Instruction Manual, prepared by the Institute of Local and State Governments, University of Pennsylvania, for the Penna. Council of Defense which is being printed in its entirety in The Evening Bulletin, in a form convenient for pasting into a scrapbook, so that all members of the Corps and the general public may acquire a copy of this valuable study and reference guide.

A complete civilian protection organization is described below.

## (1) Air Raid Warden Service

## (a) Air Raid Wardens

1. Duties  
Air raid wardens are chiefly responsible for maintaining order, assisting civilians, directing service units to points of need, advising civilians on air raid precautions and defense.

## 2. Organization

a. In each county there is a chief air raid warden appointed by and responsible to the county defense council. He is responsible for advice on and supervision of air raid wardens' operations in the county. Local councils of defense, in turn, have appointed their own chief air raid wardens.

b. A State-wide system of zones, sectors, and posts has been organized on the basis of population. Communities are divided into zones.

c. Each zone is headed by a zone warden. The population of a zone is approximately 50,000. Zones are subdivided into about 10 sectors.

d. Each sector is headed by a sector warden who reports to his zone warden. Sectors have a population of about 5,000, and are subdivided into about 10 posts.

e. Each post is staffed by a senior post warden and three or more post wardens. The post has a population of about 500. It is the operating unit during actual air raids.

## (b) Fire Watchers

During an air raid alarm, fire watchers take up posts on roofs, and at other vantage points in order to spot and reach incendiary bombs quickly and control or extinguish them.

## (c) Emergency Food and Housing Corps

They provide food and shelter for those whose homes have been damaged or destroyed by air raid or other disaster. They are assisted usually by private organizations equipped to render aid.

## (2) Emergency Fire Service

## (a) Auxiliary Firemen

Under the direction of officers or first-grade firemen, auxiliary firemen lay hose, relays, operate small pumps, and in other ways assist the regular firemen.

## (b) Rescue Squads

These squads rescue persons trapped in debris; shut off broken gas, electric, and water lines; shore walls, tunnel through debris, and do minor demolition jobs; and render emergency first aid.

## (3) Emergency Police Service

## (a) Auxiliary police

Auxiliary police assist the regular police in enforcing blackouts and emergency restrictions on lighting and trespassing; guarding docks, bridges, and factories to prevent sabotage; regulating traffic to facilitate movement of essential vehicles; and preventing looting of partially demolished shops and homes.

In Pennsylvania, a special body of Auxiliary Traffic Police is being organized by councils of defense to control traffic outside municipalities during blackouts.

## (b) Bomb Squads

These squads remove bombs which

## CIVILIAN PROTECTION ORGANIZATION FOR A LOCAL COUNCIL OF DEFENSE

Suggested by U. S. Office of Civilian Defense  
(Civilian Defense Corps)

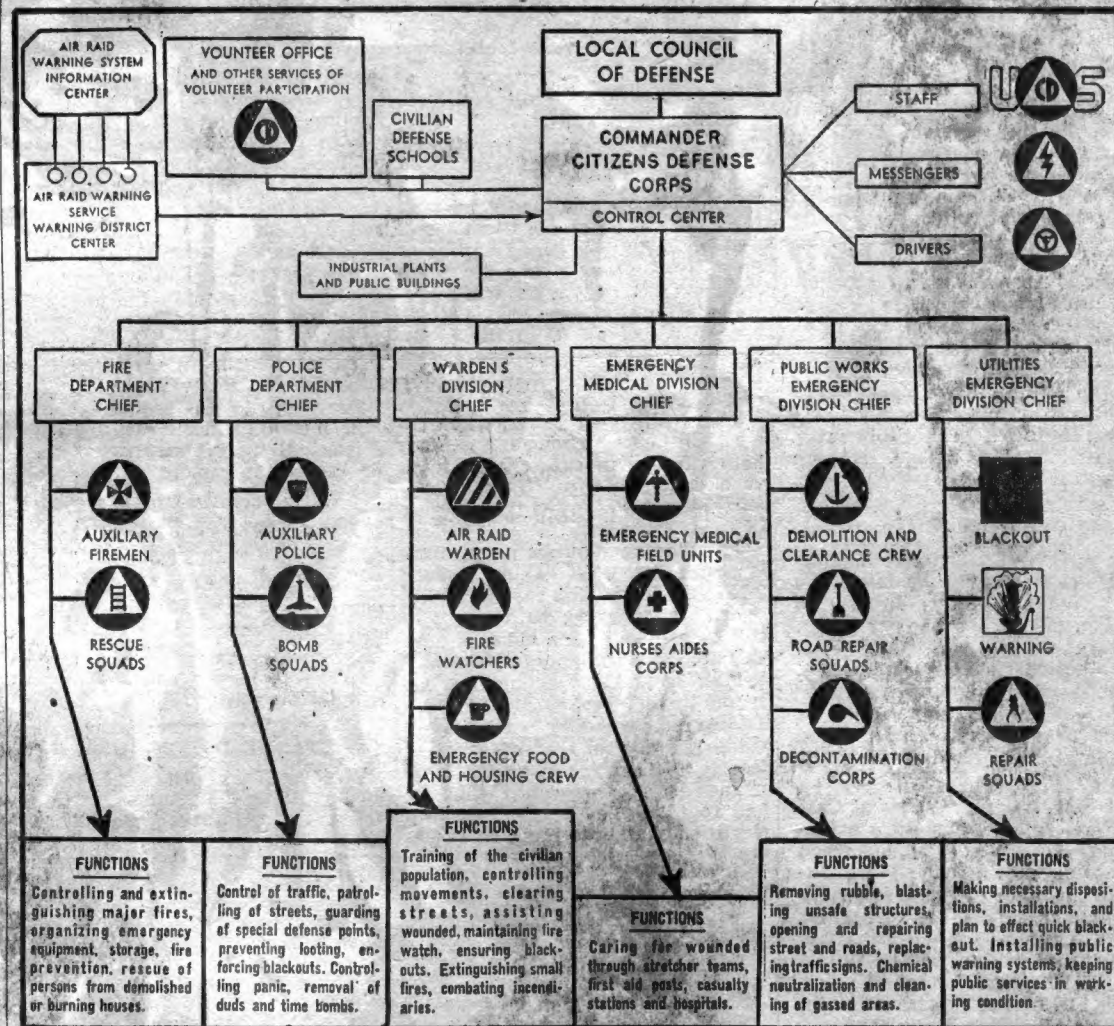


FIGURE 2

are duds or have delayed-action fuses. This work requires an unusual degree of knowledge, skill, and devotion, and is usually entrusted to picked men of the regular police force who have been carefully trained for the work.

## (4) Emergency Medical Service

(a) Emergency Medical Field Units  
These field units are organized by hospitals and are composed of squads of physicians, nurses, and nursing auxiliaries. Upon orders from the control center, the medical squad proceeds to the scene of disaster and sets up a casualty station, and, if necessary, a first aid post.

## (b) Nurses' Aides Corps

Nurses' aides receive special training to assist nurses in wards and out-patient clinics of hospitals, public health services, and casualty stations and first aid posts manned by emergency medical field units.

## (5) Emergency Public Works Service

(a) Demolition and Clearance Crews  
These crews remove rubble and debris from streets, fill craters made by bombs or broken pavements, and raze unsafe walls and buildings.

## (b) Road Repair Crews

These crews restore normal flow of traffic as rapidly as possible after an air raid, following up the rough clearance of the demolition crews. They smooth road surfaces, fill holes, repave with

available material and restore road markings.

## (c) Decontamination Squads

After a gas attack, these squads treat clothing and equipment and chemically neutralize streets and walls contaminated by the persistent liquids known as "blister gases."

(6) Emergency Utilities Service  
Utilities—Repair Squads are responsible for keeping public services in working condition by speedy repair or replacement of utility mains and lines damaged or destroyed in air raids.

## (7) Staff Group (under immediate direction of control center)

## (a) Command Section

The duties of this section include both command and the more routine work of typing, maintaining records, operating switchboards, and performing general office work. The command staff is described in the section devoted to the control center.

## (b) Drivers Corps

Drivers are assigned by the commander or the co-ordinator of transportation, if there is one, to first aid squads, casualty stations, control centers, and to other service units when required. Men and women who offer their own cars are enrolled for this work.

## (c) Messengers

Messengers are assigned to warden posts, control and mes-

sage centers, hospitals and first aid posts, fire stations, and police precincts; their work is doubly important when normal communications have broken down.

## References:

A Civilian Defense Volunteer Office: What It Is, How It Is Set Up, What It Does, How to Organize It, OGD  
Edgewood Lectures, Series 1, General Subjects, OGD, 1941

How To Organize Civilian Protection In Your Community, OGD Local Organization for Civilian Protection, OGD, July 1941

Manual for the Organization of Local Councils of Defense In Pennsylvania, Bulletin No. 4, Pennsylvania Council of Defense, May 1941

Pennsylvania Councils of Defense: A Manual of Information, Pennsylvania Council of Defense, February 1942

Proclamation of the Governor Establishing Pennsylvania Council of Defense, Governor's Office, April 17, 1941

State Council of Defense Act, Pennsylvania Statutes No. 3, 1941 P.

State Council of Defense: A Manual of Information, OGD, The U.S. Citizens' Defense Corps (Book, OGD)

Volunteer First Aid Detachments, American Red Cross, 1941

Local Civilian Defense Ordinances and/or Executive Proclamations (Continued Tomorrow)

PENNSYLVANIA CITIZENS' DEFENSE CORPS  
INSTRUCTION MANUAL FOR BASIC COURSES

This is the Third installment of the Official Instruction Manual, prepared by the Institute of Local and State Governments, University of Pennsylvania, for the Penna. Council of Defense which is being printed in its entirety in The Evening Bulletin, in a form convenient for pasting into a scrapbook, so that all members of the Corps and the general public may acquire a copy of this valuable study and reference guide.

## General Course

## Unit II—1½ to 2 Hours

## CONTROL CENTER

## A. CONTROL SYSTEM GIVES UNIFIED OPERATION

## 1. Commander is supplied with picture of situation in field

In a civilian protection organization which is decentralized and operating throughout a municipality or area, some means is required to enable the commander to know the disposition of auxiliary service squads and all that is happening in the area under his control, so that he can wisely assign the necessary service units to points of need. The control system serves this purpose.

## 2. Orders are transmitted quickly and accurately

All citizens' defense corps units in a control center area are subject to the commander's orders. With his staff, he manages civilian protection operations. The control system enables him to transmit his orders quickly and accurately and to co-ordinate the activities of all defense squads.

## B. COMMANDER DIRECTS CIVILIAN PROTECTION

## 1. The commander is appointed by the local or county council of defense

During air raid emergencies, the commander will be stationed in the main control center from which he directs civilian protection activities with the assistance of his staff.

3. He co-ordinates operations of auxiliary units  
In all periods when his area has received a red warning, and thereafter until official word is received that hostile airplanes are no longer operating in range, the commander assumes full power to direct such operations as he deems advisable in passive defense. All citizens' defense corps units are subject to his command during emergencies and are committed according to his orders. His relationship with the various functional groups is depicted in Figure 3.

## 4. He drills corps workers who have arm bands

Basic and special duty instruction of citizens' defense corps workers is the responsibility of the County Director of Civilian Defense Schools, under the supervision of the Training Division of the State Council of Defense.

Once corps workers have completed such instruction and received their arm bands, the commander assumes responsibility for drilling them on the job for their special assignments in corps and group drills and exercises. Special duty training, which leads to the award of First Class rating, remains the responsibility of the county directors of civilian defense schools, and may proceed while the corps are getting corps drill under the direction of the commander.

## Relationship Between the Commander and the Functional Groups

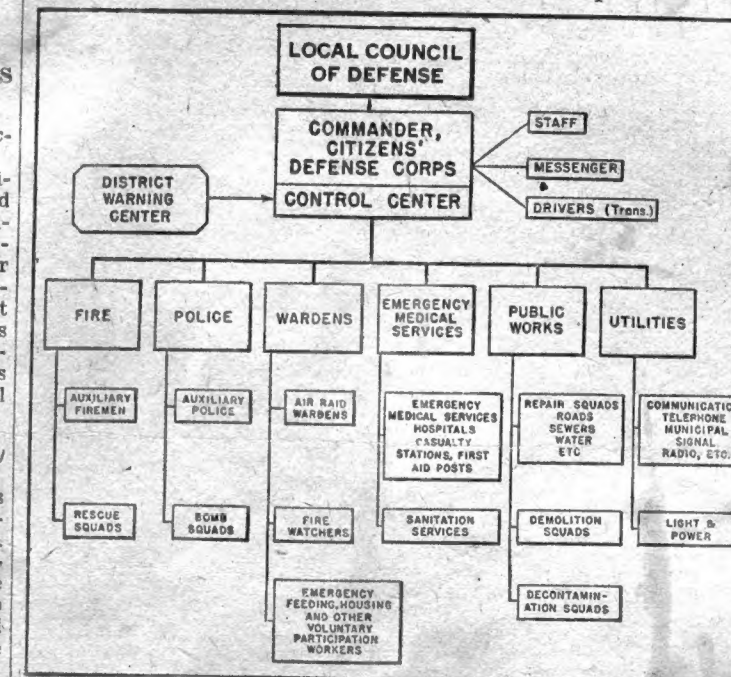


FIGURE 3

## C. CONTROL CENTER IS "NERVE CENTER" OF CIVILIAN PROTECTION IN ACTION

1. Air raid warning messages are received from the civil air raid district warning center.  
2. Such messages are transmitted to the proper recipients.  
3. Orders for sounding air raid alarms are issued.  
4. Reports of air raid damage are received from air raid wardens.  
5. Operating units are dispatched to incidents.

## D. AREA SERVED BY CONTROL CENTER DEPENDS ON LOCAL FACTORS

## 1. Population

a. In general, one control center will serve a population of 100,000. However, wide variations properly occur.  
b. Small cities and other communities which are not located conveniently close to other cities will find it necessary to establish independent control centers to co-ordinate operations in their own communities. They may be located in police or fire headquarters, or other suitable building.

## 2. Topography

Certain topographical features affect the boundaries of control center areas. For example, where a river with but one or two bridges bisects a community, it might be disastrous if the crossings were destroyed and it became impossible for action squads on one side of the river to help a severely damaged section on the other side.

## 3. Political boundaries

Where adjoining communities are not worked out some mutual aid plan, political boundaries are a determining factor.

## 4. Mutual aid plans

Several small cities may work out co-operative agreements among themselves or with an adjoining urban center whereby their respective services may be effectively operated from a single control center.

## 5. City subdivisions

In large cities which require more than one control center, existing city subdivisions, such as police and fire districts, may serve as control center districts with district control centers.

## E. DISTRICT CONTROL CENTERS NECESSARY IN LARGE URBAN COMMUNITIES

1. In large urban centers, subordinate control centers or district centers are established in addition to the main control center, which co-ordinates action in the community as a whole.  
2. The functions of district control centers parallel those of the main control center on a smaller scale and a lower level.  
3. The main control center receives reports from the district control centers rather than from air raid wardens, and controls the movement of service squads between districts, rather than within a district.

## F. CONTROL CENTER LOCATED IN SAFE, CONVENIENT PLACE

1. Center may be located in municipal building, police or fire headquarters, or other suitable building.  
a. Municipal signal center of the existing police or fire services.  
b. Headquarters of municipal government, i.e. city hall or municipal building.  
c. Headquarters of volunteer fire department in small communities.  
d. Other convenient building

## 2. Protective construction is essential

As the direction center of air raid defense activities in action, it is especially important that the control center be adequately protected from bomb damage. Protective considerations, such as the following, are taken into account in selecting control center accommodations.

a. The building should not be of the type built with "load bearing" walls.  
b. The center should be located on a floor which is at least three full stories from the top of the building but not on the first floor.

c. Basements are desirable provided that:

(1) There is no danger of flooding;  
(2) The grade is above water, gas, and sewer mains;  
(3) The ceiling supports are sufficient to bear the collapsible load of the rest of the building; and  
(4) There are two exits which have direct access to the outside

d. The building should be of fire-proof construction.  
e. Arrangement should be made for blackout, gas-proofing, and protection against bomb splinters and flying glass.

f. It should be possible to control access effectively in order to prevent sabotage.

## G. A COMPLETE URBAN CONTROL CENTER IS FULLY STAFFED

Note: Staff corps leaders in large urban centers should learn more of the details of the organization and operation of control centers. They should consult, The Control System of the Citizen's Defense Corps, O. C. D.

1. Assisting the commander are an executive officer; controller; and officers in charge of personnel, property, transport, billeting, incidents, communications, and plotting. Included on the staff, also, are a panel clerk, records clerk, telephonists, radio aides, and guards.

Chiefs of the emergency services—fire, police, wardens, medical, public works, utilities—or their deputies, assist the commander. They are responsible for mobilizing and alerting their service corps, and dispatching them according to the commander's orders.

## H. CONTROL CENTER EQUIPPED WITH INTERNAL WARNING SYSTEM, MAP, COMMUNICATION SYSTEM CONTROL PANEL

1. Electric bell and "black box" keep staff informed.  
2. Colored pins used to show various kinds of information on large master map (200 feet to the inch).  
3. Control panel used to record, by means of pins, information on incidents, services needed, and fires dispatched.  
4. Printed forms are used for messages; warning lists are prepared; log book is permanent record of incidents.  
(Continued Tomorrow)



# Water Shortage Feared Here; Leaky Mains

## PRIORITIES HALT REPAIR PROGRAM, NEESON INSISTS

Plan for Conservation  
Outlined at Meeting of  
Defense Officials.

Conserve water or face the threat of a shortage this summer, Philadelphia was warned yesterday.

Danger of a shortage was highlighted by disclosure that the city wastes 10,000,000 gallons daily through leaking mains.

The vital necessity of correcting this condition was pointed out by Ellwood J. Turner, who explained that, during air raids, the city system might be called on to help the neighboring waterworks of four other counties.

### Conservation Program.

Turner, chairman of the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, mapped a water conservation campaign at a luncheon meeting in the Bellevue-Stratford.

The Record revealed on March 20 that Philadelphia's corroded, run-down water supply system is running so close to capacity that any important breakdown would cripple the water production program.

This is because 75 percent of its supply—now averaging 340,000,000 gallons a day—is dependent upon the obsolete steam pumps at the Lardner's Point and Queen Lane stations.

### A-4 Rating Held Useless.

Director of Public Works John H. Neeson, who also spoke at the luncheon, said only raising of priorities for rehabilitating the water system will correct the situation.

The A-4 rating obtained from the War Production Board March 19, less than two months ago, is "useless," Neeson said, since it does not cover needed copper and brass.

In other words, this rating is blocking the \$18,000,000 program just as much as City Council blocked it long before priorities.

### Axious for New Pumps.

"The equipment necessary (brass and copper) would require a rating all up in the A-1 list, possibly as high as A-1-c," Neeson said.

Materials, he continued, simply cannot be obtained on the basis of the A-4 rating. He said:

"Brass manufacturers tell us we have to have an A-1-c," he said. "We received the same answer when we tried to buy pipelines, valves, and especially equipment containing copper."

"I am desperately anxious to get pumps for pumping stations."

The first of the nine new modern pumps for Lardner's Point will not be delivered until November, although ordered last June, Neeson said. The outlook for the Torresdale and Queen Lane stations is obscure.

## Waste 10,000,000 Gallons Daily

# City May Ration Water Unless Users Save 40,000,000 Gallons Daily

PHILADELPHIA RECORD, FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1942

## LEAKING MAINS CUT CITY WATER SUPPLY

Continued From First Page

McLaughlin, chief of the Water Bureau, and civilian defense officials from the metropolitan area.

Turner emphasized that "there is no danger of water rationing at present."

He called the meeting in the Bellevue-Stratford to develop plans for an educational campaign to save consumption of water by halting waste this summer. Employing posters and speakers to carry this message, the campaign will begin May 25.

"The unusual burden of water facilities," Turner pointed out, has been produced by growing production of war plants, the requirements for new housing projects, and the influx of defense workers.

### PRIORITY RATING 'USELESS'

In discussing the rehabilitation program, Neeson explained that the A-4 priority rating which the city holds is now "useless."

"We have applied for a rating in the upper A brackets," he said. "We can't do anything unless we get A-1-E."

Materials simply cannot be obtained on the basis of the A-4 rating.

### PUMPS ARE NEEDED

"Brass manufacturers tell us we have to have an A-1-C," he said. "We received the same answer when we tried to buy pipelines, valves, and especially equipment containing copper."

"I am desperately anxious to get pumps for the pumping stations," he added.

New ones which are absolute requirements will be placed in the Lardner's Point station by November, he indicated. Pumps are also needed at Torresdale and Queen Lane stations.

Costs made in 1940, he said, showed the cost of replacement was more than the cost of purchase.

He said the city would not consider it wise to invest "in a mere experiment."

### SUGGESTIONS MADE

Elimination of lawn sprinkling, attention to leaky faucets, and turning off all spigots tightly are urged in the circulars.

Present at the opening meeting in the Mayor's office yesterday, in addition to Neeson, were Martin J. McLaughlin, chief of the Water Bureau, and David W. Robinson, executive secretary of the Interstate Commission.

### LEAK SEARCH EXTENDED

As this campaign got underway, John J. Lynch, district WPA manager, announced that \$42,631 has been granted for extension of the project for locating leaks into South Philadelphia.

A similar project recently completed in West Philadelphia resulted in the repairing of leaks which resulted in a saving of 12,600,000 gallons of water daily.

### Wastage Cited.

A serious shortage might occur this summer, Neeson said.

The wastage of 10,000,000 gallons of water a day through defective mains was tabulated by a city-sponsored WPA project, Neeson said. The wastage was cut to this figure from about 20,000,000 gallons a day when repairs were made as a result of the survey.

### Plenty of Water, But—

Turner said of plans for a conservation campaign:

"The trouble is not in the amount of water in the river—there's plenty there—but in the capacity of our various water plants."

"They are now being called upon to supply an abnormal demand and unless we conserve our water there is a threat of a shortage."

"There's no thought or need of rationing water; but we don't want to leave water running or spigots leaking."

Present at the water conservation luncheon were, besides Neeson and Turner, Acting Mayor Bernard Samuel, Dr. A. C. Marts, State director of civilian defense; Martin J. McLaughlin, chief of the Water Bureau; Samuel S. Baxter, assistant director of Public Works; and defense officials of the four nearby counties.

## PRIORITY RATINGS ARE CONSIDERED FOR WAR PLANTS

Situation 'More Critical  
Than Most Realize,'  
Neeson Warns.

By JOSEPH P. McLAUGHLIN

The city may be forced to ration water this summer, Director of Public Works John H. Neeson warned yesterday.

Only a voluntary curtailment of 40,000,000 gallons a day can avert it, he said.

Asserting the situation is "much more critical than most persons realize," Neeson called on every citizen to use water as sparingly as he would gasoline, as "one of the most important contributions he can make to winning the war."

### Industry Load Rises.

Chiefly responsible for the threatened shortage, he explained, is the increasing demand of war industries, which will hit their production peak about July or August, just when the seasonal demand is greatest. Maximum capacity of the city's filtration plant is 400,000,000 gallons daily. A demand of at least 440,000,000 gallons a day is anticipated.

Rationing water would be difficult, Neeson admitted. In the first place, it probably would require additional legislation. In the second place, only 47 percent of the domestic consumers (householders) are on meters. While it would be possible to curtail their water use, through assignment of meter quotas, there would be no way of limiting the amount of water consumed by the remaining 53 percent.

Neeson said it might be necessary to give the city's industrial and commercial concerns priority ratings in the order of their importance to the war effort. No matter what happens, he declared, the city will see to it that war plants get water.

### Quotas Considered.

However, he said, nonessential commercial and industrial users could be assigned quotas and required to stay within them.

Of the 119 billion gallons of water consumed annually in Philadelphia, domestic users account for 58 billion, commercial users 50 billion, and industrial concerns 11 billion.

## Don't Fill Bathtub With Water in Raid

"In an air-raid emergency,  
DO NOT fill your bathtub with  
water."

That was the thrice-repeated warning given last night by Dr. A. C. Marts, executive director of the State Council of Defense, in a radio address over Station KYW.

Reason? The distribution systems can't take it.

"In the five-county Philadelphia metropolitan district, 60,000,000 gallons of water would be instantly demanded if all citizens filled their tubs."

"The distribution systems would be unduly strained; pressures through water mains would be substantially reduced; fire protection in bombed areas would be seriously jeopardized."

cooking, for shaving, for every use; by prompt attention to leaking faucets, toilets and other plumbing fixtures (one faulty faucet allowed to run in a thin, steady stream wastes 360 gallons of water a day); by freezing garden and lawn hose for the duration, unless drought makes their use absolutely necessary; by developing and exercising the habit of water-watchfulness."

### Conference Held.

The water conservation program was launched at a conference in the office of Acting Mayor Samuel, attended by Neeson, Chief of the Water Bureau Martin J. McLaughlin, David W. Robinson, executive secretary of the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, and news-magazines.

Philadelphia Record  
May 29, 1942  
Circulation: Daily 437,350, Sunday 1

## LEAKING MAINS COST 10 MILLION GALLONS A DAY

Huge Water Waste  
Revealed by Neeson;  
Priorities Block  
Rehabilitation Plan

The city of Philadelphia is wasting 10,000,000 gallons of water each day because of leaking underground mains.

This was disclosed yesterday by John H. Neeson, Director of the Department of Public Works, at a meeting called to plan a water-saving program in order to ward off a critical shortage this summer.

### 10,000,000 GALLONS SAVED

Through a pitometer survey directed by municipal engineers in a city-sponsored WPA project, Neeson said, leaks which were wasting another 10,000,000 gallons a day were discovered and repaired.

But the survey, inaugurated in the spring of 1940, thus far has covered only about 45 percent of the city and Neeson estimated that when it was completed and all leaks impossible to detect except through a pitometer have been found, 20,000,000 gallons of water which previously flowed into sewers or streams would be saved.

### DANGER OF SHORTAGE

His statement was given added significance by the fact that Ellwood J. Turner, chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission on the Delaware River Basin, had warned earlier that "there is a danger of a water shortage here this summer."

Adding more gloom to the general picture was Neeson's disclosure that the start of the \$18,000,000 program for rehabilitation of the municipal water system has been delayed by lack of a sufficiently high priority for materials.

### USE 340 MILLION DAILY

At present, the daily consumption of water amounts to 340,000,000 gallons. When the summer peak is reached, the consumption will approximate 400,000,000 gallons.

The shortage can develop, Turner explained, if the defense industries reach the peak of their requirements this summer and waste by industries and householders continues.

### NO DANGER OF RATIONING

Present at the meeting, of which Turner was chairman, were Mayor Samuel, Neeson, Assistant Director of Public Works Samuel A. C. Marts, executive of the State Defense Council.

## ALL URGED TO CUT USE OF WATER TO AID WAR PLANTS

20-Gallon-a-Day Reduction  
Asked of Citizens  
of 5-County Area.

"Don't be a drip—save water." With that slogan, the Philadelphia area embarked yesterday on a campaign to cut domestic water consumption at least 60,000,000 gallons a day from now until October.

The 60,000,000 gallons, Director of Public Works John H. Neeson pointed out, may prove the margin of victory for United Nations forces fighting on distant battlefields.

That represents 15 percent of present daily consumption in the Philadelphia metropolitan area, Neeson said. Present consumption approximates 400,000,000 gallons daily. Neeson warned that the deficit rapidly is approaching its maximum productive capacity.

Continued on Page 3, Column 1.

## 20-Gallon-a-Day Reduction Urged on Citizens of 5-County Area.

[Continued From First Page]

capacity of 460,000,000 gallons daily. It represents the difference between the capacities of water facilities in the five-county area—Philadelphia, Delaware, Montgomery, Chester and Bucks—an the anticipated peak demand this summer.

Unless the difference is made up through voluntary curtailment of water usage by domestic consumers, war plants will be forced to slow production of vital war materials.

### Urge 40 Million Gallon Cut.

Philadelphia itself will be asked to save at least 40,000,000 gallons a day, approximately 20 gallons each for the 2,000,000-odd inhabitants. Average daily consumption per person last year—excluding commercial users—was 50 gallons.

The peak average daily capacity of Philadelphia's pumping stations is 400,000,000 gallons. Anticipated demand this summer, including that due to increased war production, is 440,000,000 gallons.

How citizens can help: "By turning off faucets tightly (a single dripping faucet wastes 10 gallons of water a day); by using what water you need, no more, for drinking, for bathing, for





# War on Waste Started To Avert Water Famine

City Officials' Aim Is to Save  
50,000,000 Gallons Daily  
To Help Meet Wartime Needs

Faced by a water famine that might bring disaster to vital war production plants, the Philadelphia metropolitan area yesterday began a water conservation campaign to save 50,000,000 gallons each day through elimination of waste.

Headed by Mayor Samuel, city and defense officials called upon all residents to join in support of the campaign which will be continued indefinitely. Originally, it was planned for only two weeks.

## PATRIOTISM IS STRESSED

The patriotic phase of the saving campaign was emphasized by the Mayor, who pointed out that "the rapid expansion of defense industries and additional water needs in homes are beginning to tax our water supply, filtration, and distribution systems."

Capacity of the system is estimated at about 400,000,000 gallons a day and, with war plants expanding their production daily, an unprecedented summer peak of 440,000,000 gallons a day is predicted. It is estimated that 50,000,000 gallons can be saved daily if everybody stops wasting—and that would be sufficient to ward off any crisis.

## APPEAL TO WASHINGTON

Meanwhile, Director of Public Works John H. Neeson announced that he is going to Washington tomorrow, accompanied by all members of the city's Congressional delegation, in the most concerted effort thus far to obtain a better priority rating for the city in order to get work started on the \$18,000,000 rehabilitation program for the over-taxed water system.

Neeson and the Congressmen will confer with Maury Maverick, chief of the Bureau of Governmental Requirements of the War Production Board, which dispenses materials needed for governmental units other than Federal units. The Congressmen already have discussed the situation with Maverick.

## PRESENT RATING 'USELESS'

At present, the city has an A4 rating, which is virtually worthless. Neeson said, and it will attempt to get an A1E rating for purchase of materials necessary for the construction work.

Federal officials have admitted, Neeson pointed out, that this is the most important industrial area for war production in the country, with work being done on contracts worth \$1,600,000,000. The question might easily become one of "no water—no guns," he said.

## IMMEDIATE PROBLEM

Rehabilitation of the system, however, he warned, "does not meet the immediate summer problem. That has to be met right away," he said.

The citizens have been asked to stop waste through excessive use and defective plumbing fixtures. "We are not asking them to stop using water for any essential purpose," Neeson said.

The campaign is sponsored by the Mayor, the Philadelphia Council of Defense and the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin in the five-county metropolitan area. Sponsors began distribution of 500,000 circulars in the city and 250,000 in the neighboring counties yesterday. There also will be radio talks.

## BATTLING PROBLEM OF CITY'S BAD-TASTING WATER AS RESIDENTS BRAVE RAIN TO FILL BOTTLES AT SPRING

A worker, wearing a mask as protection from dust, unloading bags of carbon to be placed into the water at the Torresdale pumping station to remove impurities. Eight parts of carbon are placed in 1,000,000 gallons, but

the process fails to do away with the bad taste and odor. Meanwhile, residents of the Wissinoming section are shown braving the rain yesterday to fill bottles at a spring in Wissinoming Park, a scene that is being repeated at

springs all over the city. Right: Bruce Campbell, a chemist at the Torresdale station, sniffing a sample of water after it was filtered. A remedy to end the taste and odor has not been found.

## Good Water Is Hoped for by 1953

Continued From First Page

and \$2,500,000 for miscellaneous purposes—engineering and surveying fees, etc.

Included in the over-all program was the expenditure of \$1,000,000 for the ozone plant at the Belmont filtration station soon to be placed in operation and which will give West Philadelphia and Overbrook a "pleasant" tasting water, and \$400,000 for machinery to feed chemicals into the water at the Torresdale station.

### NEW FILTER MACHINES

Temporary carbon feeding facilities have been installed both at the Belmont and Torresdale stations. It is contemplated that about

\$5,000,000 will be spent annually in the new program which also will include the construction of new filter equipment at Belmont and Queen Lane, giving both stations double filtration. New main distribution lines also will be run into areas with new homes and the city plans to build large reinforcing mains.

The present plans are the result of action taken in November, 1946, following a report to Council by the Mayor's Water Commission.

At that time, it was decided to hold in abeyance plans for a \$284,588,000 upland water supply until the city had exhausted every means of improving local sources.

The commission was pointed

May 22, 1945, following a long controversy over the Delaware River project which called for impounding water 95 miles north of this city at Wallpack Bend, and the Pocono Mountain project proposed by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co.

The latter project called for impounding water in four large reservoirs on the headwaters of the Lehigh River, 75 miles from Philadelphia. The company owned and had certain water rights in a portion of this watershed. Under this proposal, the water would flow by gravity through pipelines into the city for filtration at the rate of 445,000,000 gallons daily.

While the commission, upon conclusion of its studies, reported that the Delaware River project was "the best of all proposed sources," it recommended a start on local improvements in two stages, the first of which is now nearing completion.

The commission pointed out that the local improvement program was necessary before contemplating "the more ambitious proposal" and it urged the city to preempt the Wallpack Bend site for Philadelphia's use in the future.

Yesterday, Taylor said that improvements at the Belmont and Queen Lane stations would fit in with any future plans the city might have regarding a new source of water supply.

### FEW ATTENDED MEETINGS

He pointed out, however, that the same provisions could not be made at the Torresdale plant because "in event the city should seek an upland source, it would have to be abandoned and constructed on much higher ground to facilitate gravity feed."

## Tri-State Survey Of Water Urged

A tri-State water survey project was recommended yesterday by the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin for the purpose of constructing reservoirs on the upper Delaware to give Philadelphia and other municipalities "good drinking water."

This was announced by James H. Allen, secretary-treasurer of INCODEL, who said complaints about Philadelphia's drinking water would continue as long as the city depends upon the "decidedly sub-standard water" which comes from the polluted Delaware and Schuylkill.

"Objectionable tastes and odors in Philadelphia's drinking water will probably be continually encountered despite the river clean-up programs," Allen said.

Allen serves as chairman of an INCODEL subcommittee which has developed extensive plans for a study of a tri-State solution to the city's water problem and which calls for a "cooperative investigation by New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania to determine sources which would provide adequate and suitable drinking water for the areas most directly concerned—Philadelphia, New York City and the North Jersey metropolitan area."

The report recommends that legislation be enacted in the three states authorizing a joint water investigation survey. Cost of the survey, which would take two years, is estimated at approximately \$200,000.

R

## State Aides Join City Search For Polluted Water Source

Continued From First Page

problem because of the pollution going downstream with the outgoing tide and coming upstream with the incoming tide. We are after it, however, and we will catch up with it."

Hoffert, before entraining for this city from Harrisburg, disclosed that while he had no definite appointments for today he had been ordered "because of the seriousness of the situation" to contact Mayor Bernard Samuel and other leaders of the city government.

"We will do everything possible to trace the pollution to its source and track this trouble down," Hoffert said. "The State will fully apply the law if clear-cut violations of the pure stream laws are found."

### RAIN FAILS TO HELP

Personnel from the State Department of Health have made visits here for several weeks and yesterday it was disclosed for the first time that more than 200 samples of water had been taken from the Delaware River since Dec. 23. However, it was pointed out "State investigators have not been able to put their finger on anything definite yet."

Those who will be on hand in an effort to aid the city solve its drinking water problems include George Elias, district sanitary engineer in the Philadelphia area; Francis B. Milligan, chief of the industrial water section; Kennett Rhoads, chemist; Edward Edgerley, district engineer, who is checking the Lehigh region; L. D. Matter, assistant chief engineer, and H. G. Knox, technical adviser to the State Sanitary Water

fore meeting with city officials. He reported that the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering was "willing to loan all of its engineers to the city to clean up the problem."

Meanwhile, Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the City Water Bureau, declared that despite yesterday's driving rain, pollution in the Delaware River failed to be "dispersed" and that the "unpleasant taste" continued unabated.

### MANY PLANTS BLAMED

"We have put extra men to work in our laboratories," Taylor said, "but as yet we have failed to pin down the source of the trouble. We believe it to exist somewhere between Port Richmond and the Bristol area."

"A number of persons has called or written to this office, and that is putting it mildly, stating that such and such a plant is the cause of our troubles. I defy anyone to take samples at any of the plants mentioned and to prove their accusations are correct."

Taylor said his men had taken tests at every one of the plants cited to them by citizens "even at dye plants where passengers on trains or elevated cars had seen colored water pouring into the river."

### SOURCE STILL UNKNOWN

Some reports said the pollution may be coming downstream from Phillipsburg, N. J., but Taylor said chemists had reported to him the latest tests indicated the pollution was going up the river to the Torresdale plant.

Taylor added that at present "there was not even an indication on tests to show a trend." He pointed out there was a possibility that the pollution was caused by a combination of matter already in the water mixing with other matter coming from upriver.

"All our men agree that this is worse than anything we have had in recent years," Taylor concluded.



# \$1,000,000 Program Proposed in 1939 to Eliminate Pollution

There is no excuse for the coal silt that clogs the Schuylkill and makes every heavy rain rise to flood level.

U. S. Army engineers said so in 1939 after a three-year survey. Their findings hold truer than ever now after three more years of coal waste dumping by operators upstream.

## Report Blamed State.

Brigadier General John man reported: district engineer (at Philadelphia) considers the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the anthracite industry as primarily responsible for pollution of the Schuylkill Valley.

The report then outlined a \$1,000,000 program to clear away the silt, throttling the stream. It called for:

1. State action to bar coal mines from dumping an estimated 600,000 to 1,000,000 tons of coal waste into the river annually. Without this, the engineers said, any antipollution program is an empty promise.

## Dredging Proposed.

2. Dredging of upward of 20,000,000 tons of accumulated silt from the river from Norristown to its headwaters at a cost of \$6,000,000.

3. Construction of a huge \$1,750,000 desilting basin at Auburn, just below Pottsville, to check silt in the upper river from drifting downstream.

4. Erection of walls in the mine regions to prevent culm from old coal dumps from eroding into the Schuylkill and tributaries, total cost \$2,500,000.

## Would Stop Pollution.

The report further said: "The district engineer concludes that culm pollution in the Schuylkill Valley can be economically stopped by carrying out, in general, the plans outlined in the report. He is of the opinion that the work should be undertaken by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in co-operation with the anthracite industry."

## Proposed Waste Tunnels.

Meanwhile, the James Administration's indorsement two years ago of a \$30,000,000 project for two mammoth tunnels to drain acid waste from mines into the Schuylkill and Susquehanna was cited as revealing its attitude.

President of the Schuylkill River Valley Restoration Association, said:

"Fortunately, the association and other public-spirited citizens succeeded in defeating the proposal before it completed the ruin of the Schuylkill.

## Governor's Attitude.

"But it clearly illustrated the Governor's propensity for helping the coal mines but not the people.

"When \$125,000 might have helped curb floods throughout most of the 150-mile length of the Schuylkill Valley, it was withheld by James.

"But when it came to approving \$30,000,000 to carry waste from coal mines, the James Administration heartily assented."

# No Excuse for Coal Silt Clogging River U. S. Army Engineers Hold

## Coal Sludge (Courtesy of James) Blocks Driveway



A six-foot flood over East River Drive along the Schuylkill left 4000 cubic yards of coal sludge in two blocks between Midvale and Ferry rd., between Saturday night and yesterday. Russell T. Vodges, chief engineer of Fairmount Park Commission, termed it "a slimy, greasy, horrible mixture, 60 to 70 percent coal silt, which will take several days to remove." Meanwhile, that section of the drive is closed to traffic. The silt is some of the stuff which U. S. Army engineers urged the James Administration to remove from the Schuylkill.

## Earle Project Revised.

At that time the Earle administration was leaving office after sponsoring a WPA project under which \$1,750,000 worth of culm retention walls were erected.

The WPA project was revised to involve spending an additional \$1,250,000. Under a 1939 Act of Congress, passed under Republican pressure to check "spending," State sponsors were required to put up 10 percent.

The James Administration refused to spend the \$125,000 necessary for the work. It charged the New Deal with "discriminating" against it, although the 10 percent law applied all over the nation and was urged by Republicans.

The walling project came to a dead halt and none of the other work outlined in the engineers' report has been done.

## U. S. Action Considered.

There was conjecture yesterday over whether the Federal Government might take its own steps to prevent future flooding of war plants like Bethlehem Steel.

Major S. E. Potter, at the district engineer's office, said:

"We will survey the damage and the condition that led to it and will make recommendations to remedy the situation. Those may or may not be in line with the 1939 report, as we may find that conditions have changed in such a way as to warrant other steps."

## Called for State Action.

Ladner said that when the organization went to Washington to urge further action on the Army report, it was told that the Government would not act until the State Sanitary Water Board barred further culm dumping.

So it turned to the board, he said, and was told "that presents a very difficult problem, so difficult that it is impractical for some mines." Subsequently, Ladner declared, Howard N. Evanson, chief lobbyist for the coal industry, admitted to a Congressional committee that it would "be no great hardship" to require mines to check dumping.

"And yet," continued Ladner, "the Sanitary Water Board of the James administration pretends there is a difficult problem which even the polluters themselves admit does not exist."

## James Assails Ladner.

James, from Harrisburg, yesterday assailed Ladner's statement blaming James for the flood situation as a "preposterous" one in which Ladner sought to make capital for his candidacy for the State Supreme Court.

The Governor said that Honesdale, White Mills and Hawley, the towns hardest hit by the flood, were upstream from Ladner's "highly questionable silt removal program."

## Ladner's Reply.

Ladner retorted:

"The Governor refers to Lackawaxen Creek. What about the Lehigh and Schuylkill rivers? What about flooding at Reading, Norristown, Pottsville? What about flooding of the Bethlehem Steel and Philadelphia Electric plants?"

"What about the statement of Philadelphia's Director of Public Works, John H. Neeson, that the flood brought tons of coal silt to Philadelphia and re-emphasized the need for cleaning the Schuylkill before the city's drinking water is affected?"

"The silt removal program would take care of all these things. Moreover, it is not my 'highly questionable' program. It is the program of the U. S. Army engineers, regarded by all experts as the last word in accuracy and practicability."

## Park Engineer Concurs.

An official Philadelphia viewpoint was voiced by Russell T. Vodges, chief engineer of the Fairmount Park Commission. He said: "Everybody agrees that the reason for these floods is the piling up of coal culm deposits in the river bed."

Democratic spokesmen in Philadelphia have long been urging control of Schuylkill pollution. John B. Kelly, then Democratic City Chairman, appealed directly to President Roosevelt in 1938 and won a project for dredging portions of the Schuylkill as it passes through the city.

## WASTING OF WATER 'MUST BE ENDED'

### Emergency Bulletin Mayor and Neeson say it should be Halted

### for War Effort

Prevention of water waste in industries and private homes was stressed by Mayor Samuel at a conference in his office in City Hall today.

Attending the meeting were John H. Neeson, Director of Public Works; Martin J. McLaughlin, chief of the Bureau of Water; David W. Robinson, executive secretary of the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, and newspaper representatives.

The Mayor and Neeson emphasized that the campaign, originally scheduled from May 23 to June 8, will be continued indefinitely. Neeson told the conferees that conservation of water is a vital factor in the prosecution of the war effort.

Only by conservation can a private water supply be provided for industries and householders, Neeson said.

"The time may come when the city consumption will reach the maximum filter bed capacity of 400,000,000 gallons daily," he said. "The problem is not one of raw water, but solely of manufactured water and the city's ability to supply it in adequate quantities."

Neeson explained that many persons are under a misapprehension that because of heavy floods there is plenty of water available.

The city's low water rate was given by officials as one reason for wastage here.

The water saving campaign sponsored by the Mayor, the Philadelphia Council of Defense and the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, and newspaper representatives.

# No Matter Whose Fault,— Help Save Water!

Philadelphia and its four surrounding counties face a severe water shortage.

The situation is becoming so acute that war production may be hampered—unless the public co-operates in saving water.

This means a gallon of water wasted today might cause delay in the delivery of a tank on a distant battlefield. Multiplied many times, it might mean the loss of a battle.

Everyone knows who is to blame.

This newspaper has been campaigning for a good water system for more than 10 years. We have pointed to our inadequate supply and lack of maintenance. We have warned of impending breakdowns that would be disastrous.

The GOP organization running City Hall did nothing. Even after the public overwhelmingly approved, two years ago, an \$18,000,000 bond issue for improving the water system, Council did nothing.

All that is now, quite literally, water over the dam.

We feel like the crew of a ship that knows the captain is incompetent. The crew helps man the pumps to save themselves, even though the leaks are the fault of the captain.

Philadelphia has been ruled without plan for 50 years.

But we must all help now—not to save our political bosses, but to help win the war.

The Philadelphia Defense Council, in co-operation with the defense councils of Montgomery, Delaware, Bucks and Chester counties, has launched an intensive campaign to save water.

## Every citizen should help.

It is estimated that more than 50,000,000 gallons of water A DAY are wasted in the Philadelphia metropolitan district.

A large part of this—10,000,000 gallons a day—is due to leaking water mains.

Another large part is due to waste which the individual citizen can control. A drip from a leaky faucet can waste 10 gallons a day, a thin trickle 260 gallons a day. Every householder should see that these leaks are stopped.

Another way the householder can help: In an air-raid emergency, do NOT fill bath-tub with water.

Dr. A. C. Marts, executive director of Pennsylvania State Council of Defense, wants that 60,000,000 gallons of water would instantly demanded in the five-county area if citizens filled their tubs at once.

Pressure in the mains would be dangerously reduced, and fire protection seriously jeopardized.

The fact that we don't have water facilities to meet these emergency needs is the fault of those who have mismanaged Philadelphia.

No matter—

Help save water now. Election day is the time to remember who is to blame.



## City Must Fight to Get Water

Philadelphia and the adjacent counties constitute the most important war production centre in the United States, with contracts of close to \$2,000,000,000.

It stands to reason that a water shortage in this area might have disastrous consequences in slowing up essential production in war plants and shipyards.

Yet for some utterly unexplained reason, Government agencies at Washington are obstructing the only sure method of averting such a shortage—the rehabilitation of Philadelphia's broken down distribution system.

We have the money for the improvement project. But we haven't got the necessary materials, and Washington thus far has refused a sufficiently high priority rating to release the materials.

Meanwhile the water situation in the five-county area has become so critical that the Defense Councils have appealed for public conservation of water so that the capacity output of the pumping plants can meet the demands put upon them.

Consumption is already beginning to tax that capacity and with the peak load still weeks away, in mid-summer, a serious shortage is threatened.

If Philadelphia could proceed with its rehabilitation program, replacing and restoring filtration beds, pumps, boilers, piping and other facilities, it could take care of its own requirements, and even, in an emergency, help supply consumers in nearby counties.

But it can't go ahead with the worthless A4 rating that the WPB has granted it. It must have at least an A1E priority to secure release of the needed materials—and it should get it.

For weary weeks on end, city officials have camped on the doorsteps of the various alphabetical agencies concerned, have poured incessantly into bureaucratic ears their appeals for an adequate priority.

All they have been able to obtain for their pains is the admission that Philadelphia's needs are great and the granting of an A4 rating, which might as well be XYZ for all the good it will do in adding one drop of water to our depleted supply.

Today, Director of Public Works John H. Neeson and the Congressmen representing the Philadelphia districts are going to try again. They will confer in Washington with Maury Maverick, chief of the Bureau of Governmental Requirements of the War Production Board, which has charge of materials sought by political subdivisions.

Mr. Neeson, who has become a veteran pleader on behalf of this city, will undoubtedly state our case in clear, factual language. If Mr. Maverick wants war production in this area to be unimpeded by a water famine, he will shear through whatever red-tape may be strewn around his office and see that Philadelphia gets the materials it requires.

If he persists in giving us the run-around, then there is only one thing to be done. No more begging for what is our due, the gun in hand, before bureaucratic desks, but a straight-line plea to the President.

Mr. Roosevelt would surely recognize the imperative necessity of an adequate water supply in the all-important Philadelphia area. If the facts in the case were presented to him by the Mayor of Philadelphia, backed by his engineers, by the five-county Defense Councils and by the heads of affected war industries, there can be little doubt that he would take such action as the situation calls for.

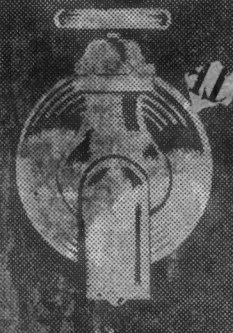
We don't want materials that are needed by the Army, the Navy or other military forces. But the key war industry centre in the Nation is entitled to priority on water equipment ahead of other localities.

Water shortage here means production slow-up. It might become a matter of "No water—no

we all the water we need if we can get priority rating on materials.

## Drips Won't Save the Drops

# DON'T BE A DRIP!



BE PATRIOTIC  
STOP LEAKS  
SAVE WATER

PHILADELPHIA COUNCIL OF DEFENSE

The city is distributing 45,000 of these and similar posters urging citizens to conserve water

**H**EAVILY burdened by the necessity of supplying water wasted through leaks and by careless use, Philadelphia's waterworks are called upon to meet, with limited facilities, the increasing demands for water created by the war. The cooperation of every water consumer is required to relieve the waterworks of this unnecessary burden.

**A Report.** In the annual report of the Bureau of Water are noted the following: 'War-time activities in general manufacturing, industrial, and commercial lines have greatly increased the demand for water... There is reason to believe that the volume of waste has increased... The ability of the waterworks to respond to the added draft has been diminished by difficulties in obtaining necessary materials... No, this is not the report for 1941; it is the report for 1917, during the last war. However, it cites the principal difficulties now facing the city. During the last war, water consumption reached a peak in 1918 which, for the week of maximum demand, averaged over 30,000,000 gallons a day greater than in that week of the year which for the three pre-war years 1914-1916 had the highest average consumption. As Philadelphia's water system has not been able to maintain adequate pressures in times of heaviest peacetime demands, it is obvious that, unless the burden of waste is removed, the system may not be equal to the wartime task.

**The Burden of Waste.** One of two general recommendations made in the report for 1917 was, 'a radical curtailment in the volume of waste.' This recommendation is applicable to the present situation. Water is wasted through broken mains, abandoned service pipes, defective joints, and other openings in the distribution system. However, the city has surveys under way to find and stop these losses, and leaks totaling millions of gallons a day have already been discovered. No doubt, even larger quantities of water are wasted through leaks in

buildings. Such a situation was revealed by surveys made in the years 1926-1931. Thousands of toilets and faucets were found which were wasting millions of gallons into the sewers; and yard hydrants, service pipes, and miscellaneous plumbing fixtures which were leaking added greatly to the waste of water.

**Use Water Wisely.** Water is also wasted when it is used carelessly or lavishly. For example, street bathing in water from fire hydrants, which has been prevalent in past years on hot summer days, wastes a lot of water. There are, also, ways in which householders do not use water wisely. Lawn sprinklers are left on for hours, sometimes all night, and take much water needlessly. Another example of waste is the use of a full stream from a faucet for washing or for some other purpose, when a basin of water or a light flow would do the job. Water is let run to waste in order to secure cooler water, although it would be more economical to cool water in the refrigerator or with ice. Just plain carelessness in not turning off the water, or in not turning it off completely, is the cause of much waste.

**Will History Repeat Itself?** Reporting for 1918, the Chief of the Bureau of Water was able to say that, despite the heavy demands upon the waterworks, almost normal pressures had been maintained throughout the city. He gave much of the credit to a reduction in waste which resulted from increased metering of consumers' services. A larger proportion of the services is metered now than in 1918, but more than half of them still are without meters. If every consumer of water, whether his service is metered or not, will stop leaks on his premises as soon as they occur, will take water only for essential uses, and will use it sparingly and with care, he will be rendering a real service. Many millions of gallons of otherwise wasted water will thus be made available for war industries, for an increasing population, and for protection in emergencies.

## Parley Delayed On Water Priority

*Inquirer Washington Bureau*  
WASHINGTON, May 27.—Philadelphia officials came to Washington today to seek higher material priorities for the city's \$18,000,000 water rehabilitation program, only to learn that the Federal officials they expected to confer with had been called out of town.

The Philadelphians, Director of Public Works John H. Neeson and George W. Elliott, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and field director of the Philadelphia Defense Council, announced they would seek another appointment early next week.

Philadelphia now has an overall priority of A-4 on its water program. It wants it raised to A-1E or better because, under the present priority, it cannot obtain the badly needed new pumps for the Torresdale, Queen Lane and Lardner's Point plants. The city's water situation has threatened to become critical by

## WATER 'RATIONING' THREATENED HERE

Public Faces Legal  
Curbs If Voluntary  
Saving Pleas Fail

Philadelphians were called on by Director of Public Works John H. Neeson yesterday to save nearly 40,000,000 gallons of water a day for war industries by abandoning wasteful and non-essential uses.

Among these he listed excessive use of garden sprinklers and hoses to wash automobiles and sidewalks.

If the people do not voluntarily limit their consumption this way, he said, the city may be forced to seek legislation forbidding use of water for non-essential purposes.

### SUPPLY SHORT OF NEEDS

The top capacity of the city's filtration plants is 400,000,000 gallons of water a day, Neeson said. By July and August the peak of the seasonal demand will increase the consumption to 440,000,000 gallons.

Only the elimination of the wasteful practices now indulged in will bring the consumption figure into balance with the total output, he said.

### WASTE ON LAWNS ASSAILED

"I see many lawn sprinklers left to run all night long," he said. "That is sheer waste. Lawns usually need no more than 10 to 15 minutes of sprinkling a day. At this season of year, when the grass is just taking hold, once a day is too much sprinkling."

"Similarly, water for hosing sidewalks and automobiles is certainly a non-essential use. We are not asking people to give up water for needed purposes. That is not necessary. It is possible, however, to take a shower with the water running for three minutes. Why let it run for 15 minutes?"

## CITY GETS GO-AHEAD ON WATER PROGRAM

The city yesterday received the go-ahead signal to initiate its \$18,000,000 water rehabilitation program as a higher priority rating permitting speedy purchase of needed equipment was given by the War Production Board.

Director of Public Works John H. Neeson announced the Army and Navy Munitions Board of the WPB had given preliminary approval to a change in the city's priority status from A-4 to A-1-J and that a final clearance would come through in four or five days.

### DELAYED 8 MONTHS

As a result of the former priority rating, the city's plan to get the water rehabilitation program under way was held up for approximately eight months.

The first move to rehabilitate the antiquated water system, Neeson said, would be to install new pumps at the Lardner's Point and Torresdale stations.

### NEW PUMPING STATION

This will be followed by the installation of preliminary mechanical filters at the Queen Lane station, construction of a new Torresdale pumping station and replacement of distribution lines.

Neeson said he also hoped to receive a higher priority rating to purchase 25,000 parts necessary to repair leaking fire hydrants.

## U. S. Speeds Pumps for City Water

Priorities Aid  
Assured for  
Phila. Program

The city's water rehabilitation program, bogged down for many months by priorities on materials, will receive special attention, Maury Maverick, chief of the Government requirements unit of the War Production Board, promised yesterday.

Following a conference at Washington with John H. Neeson, director of public works, and Nathan B. Jacobs, consulting engineer on the city's \$18,000,000 water program, Maverick asserted that new pumps for the water works would be given a status akin to "an allocation."

### PROGRESS REPORTED

Neeson, who has been in the capital several times before to get clearance on the badly needed pumps, said that "more progress was made now than at any other time."

One thing was emphasized by both Neeson and Maverick, however. Under the best conditions, delivery of the pumps will probably be a matter of six months or more. Thus, Philadelphia will not have the new equipment in time for the record-breaking peak loads of water which it must deliver this summer to its civilian population and to hundreds of plants.

### BREAKDOWNS FEARED

The city has feared a breakdown in some of its aged pumps and has set aside more than \$50,000 for emergency repairs.

"The pumps," said Neeson, "are needed for the plants at Lardner's Point, Torresdale and Queen Lane. Such pumps are huge, tailor-made jobs. Even in normal peace times, it takes as much as a year for the construction and installation of the largest ones."

### HAS HIGH HOPES

"We made definite progress and I am very hopeful for the future on the water program, although our conference may mean a revamping of our entire project. Our rating is definitely to be improved and we feel that we are finally on the way."

Following the meeting with Maverick, Neeson and Jacobs discussed technical details of the city's water rehabilitation program for more than two hours with Leonard Macomber, one of Maverick's top engineers.

Meanwhile, Martin J. McLaughlin, chief of the Bureau of Water, declared the city's conservation program was saving 5,000,000 gallons of water daily.

### DAILY AVERAGE DROPS

The average daily water usage for April, he said, was 319,000,000 gallons, whereas for the first day of this month only 311,000,000 gallons were tapped.

McLaughlin pointed out that no forecast could be made whether the peak for 1942 would reach the 395,000,000 gallon high in 1941. The daily average for 1941 was 327,000,000 gallons.

McLaughlin said that the conservation program has resulted in an immediate response from consumers in the form of letters and phone calls for co-operation.



## MAIN BREAK FLOODS AREA IN BROOKLYN

Accident at 3 A. M. Results in  
Slight Inconvenience—Two  
Trolley Lines Halted

SQUARE MILE IS AFFECTED

Water Spouts 15 Feet Near  
Two City Prisons, Extends  
to Navy Yard Gates

Hundreds of thousands of gal-  
lons of water flooded a square mile  
of Brooklyn streets yesterday  
morning when a forty-eight-inch  
water main, one of the largest in  
the city, burst at Ashland Place  
and Willoughby Street, in front of  
the Civil prison, which adjoins the  
Brooklyn City prison.

The break occurred at 3:45 A. M.  
and because of the time few per-  
sons were inconvenienced and there  
were no serious traffic snarls.  
However, it was necessary to halt  
the Flushing and Graham Avenue  
trolley lines, both of which operate  
along Flushing Avenue in this vi-  
cinity.

While two police emergency  
squad with riot guns stood guard  
at the jails, firemen trained pow-  
erful floodlights on the area near  
the break to assist other city em-  
ployes to turn off the water that  
gouted fifteen feet into the air.  
At 10 A. M. the main was cut off  
and the floodwaters drained into  
sewers during the next two hours.

Many cellars in the vicinity were  
flooded and work was interrupted  
at the Union Parts Manufacturing  
Company, which operates on a  
twenty-four-hour schedule making  
gun shell and incendiary bombs.  
At this plant, situated at 125 Ash-  
land Place, the forty-seven men  
on the night shift were sent home  
as the water poured into the base-  
ment, where the boilers are located.

The water poured down an in-  
cline to two of the gates of the  
Navy Yard about a quarter of a  
mile away. As the water began  
seeping into the yard, Marines and  
workmen piled up sandbags. Rear  
Admiral Edward J. Marquart,  
commandant at the yard, said the  
water had done no damage there.

Spiesmen for the Department  
Water Supply, Gas and Elec-  
tricity said the break was one of  
the worst in recent years and was  
regrettable, particularly at this  
time because of a shortage of  
water in the city.

The break was discovered by  
Patrolman Edward A. Chanlon,  
who left a police booth after hear-  
ing the asphalt cracking. By the  
time the break was stopped a  
crater 10 feet deep and 30 feet in  
diameter had been caused in the  
street. The cause of the break was  
known.

## PRIORITIES GRANTED FOR WATER PROJECT

Director of Public Works John H.  
Neeson said yesterday that "we're  
ready to go to work" on the large-  
scale program to rehabilitate Phila-  
delphia's water distribution system.  
He explained that assurances just  
received from Federal authorities  
give the city, in effect, an A-1 priority  
for needed materials, after long  
negotiations.

He warned, however, that the city's  
pumping plants at this moment were  
in bad condition, and that the city's  
water situation now was serious and  
could easily become critical unless  
the water-consuming public rigoro-  
usly conserved the supply.

A broken fire plug at 27<sup>th</sup> and  
Lehigh ave., which residents said  
that section said had been gushing wa-  
ter for two days, was repaired early ye-  
sterday by an emergency crew.

## High Priority Granted for Water Job

Philadelphia has been granted  
high priority ratings for materials  
necessary to rehabilitate its water  
system, it was reported last night.

A top rating of A-1-a has been  
assigned by the War Production  
Board for pumping equipment valued  
at \$960,000 for the Lardner's Point  
and Torresdale stations, it was said,  
and an A-1-j rating has been tenta-  
tively approved for steel pipe, wire  
and other materials for the entire  
\$18,000,000 program.

### FINAL ACTION AWAITED

Final action on the priorities is  
expected today, when representatives  
of the WPB meet with officials of the  
Army and Navy Munitions Board,  
who have the final decision on the  
use of vital materials.

Favorable action will permit the  
city to begin work on the rehabilita-  
tion program immediately, according  
to Leonard W. MacComber, a mem-  
ber of the Government Requirements  
Branch of the WPB.

### COMMISSION APPROVES

The priority ratings have been ap-  
proved by the WPB's Review and  
Approve Commission, MacComber  
said. Previously they had been tenta-  
tively approved by Maury Mave-  
rick, head of the Government Re-  
quirements Branch.

A rating of at least A-1-j was asked  
by Director of Public Works John  
H. Neeson several months ago when  
it became evident that a previous  
rating of A-4 was virtually worthless  
in view of the heavy demands for  
critical materials.

Neeson, in seeking a higher rating,  
emphasized the importance of the  
water system to Philadelphia war  
plants.

## PP CLEAR WAY FOR CITY WATER PLANS

Higher Priority Will  
Speed \$18,000,000  
Rehabilitation.

The War Production Board  
yesterday granted a new and  
higher priority for Philadel-  
phia's belated \$18,000,000  
water program.

Director of Public Works  
John H. Neeson was notified  
by the WPB's Bureau of Gov-  
ernmental Requirements that  
his application has received  
preliminary approval.

### Four Notches Higher.

The new order gives the pro-  
gram an overall A-1-j rating—  
four notches higher on the list  
than the A-4 issued two and a half  
months ago—with a special A-1-c  
for certain materials on the crit-  
ical list, including copper and  
brass.

The Government's action res-  
cued the city from a critical situ-  
ation caused by the refusal of  
succeeding municipal administra-  
tions to take needed action.

The job could have been finish-  
ed by now—with no worry about  
priorities—if prompt action had  
been taken when the voters au-  
thorized the \$18,000,000 bond is-  
sue in the spring of 1940.

### Contracts to Be Let.

Contracts will be let within the  
next two months to round out  
the first phase of the program  
covered by the initial issue of  
\$7,000,000 worth of bonds. This  
first phase includes new pumps  
for the Lardner's Point and  
Torresdale stations, which are un-  
der contract but which have been  
delayed by difficulty in obtaining  
materials; the preliminary me-  
chanical filters and chemical  
treatment equipment for the  
Torresdale and Queen la. plants,  
and electrical equipment installa-  
tions for the new pumping sta-  
tions.

"Then," said Neeson, "we'll pro-  
ceed with the rest of the program  
and put it all under contract as  
fast as we can."

### 2 or 3 Years Required.

The whole job will take two or  
three years and will increase the  
capacity of the system by 10 per-  
cent (present maximum daily ca-  
pacity is 400,000,000 gallons).  
Moreover it is expected that the  
water will lose its chlorine taste.

The Philadelphia Defense Coun-  
cil, in collaboration with suburban  
counties, is waging a campaign  
for conservation of water to meet  
demands of war industries on top  
of normal hot weather require-

## Water Priorities at Last

Philadelphia gets a break at last in the form of  
an A-1-a priority from the WPB for pumping  
plant material for the City's water supply system.  
An A-1-j rating for chemicals, steel pipe and wir-  
ing lags some distance behind. But on the whole  
the prospect is brighter for the most vitally needed  
and insistent repairs, especially to the Lardner's  
Point and Torresdale pumping plants.

Both ratings are so far above the former A-4  
allowance made to this great industrial commu-

nity that they represent the difference between  
reasonable probability and utter impossibility.  
Under the former dispensation any valuable im-  
provement in Philadelphia's overloaded water  
supply service was simply out of the question. We  
might as well have had no rating at all.

Yet it has taken nearly eight months, in the  
face of a dangerous and pressing situation in the  
water system, to get this change made. That has  
called for the unremitting efforts of Mayor  
Samuel, Director John H. Neeson and other City  
officials. They are to be congratulated for bucking  
and overcoming an almost uncompromising atti-  
tude during most of that period at Washington.

Getting the advanced priorities now, however,  
doesn't mean immediate results, although the  
pumping plant materials were on order nearly a  
year ago. More months must pass before the need-  
ed materials are ready, delivered and installed.  
But, as it is, prospects for eliminating a most seri-  
ous menace, possible breakdown of the pumping  
plants, are immensely improved.

## Water Wardens' You and I

On the heels of Philadelphia's fine job col-  
lecting three times its quota in scrap rubber,  
comes another patriotic achievement: Saving  
water.

Industrial and population increases were  
sufficient to send water consumption up. Yet  
in May and June it came down.

In other words, output from the worn-out  
system was conserved; serious shortage was  
averted in a supply so necessary for war pro-  
duction.

But don't misplace the medals. As with  
rubber, City Hall wins the spring onion.  
Householders and industries win the bouquet.  
They did their part well; cut May consump-  
tion 18,000,000 gallons a day from May, 1941;  
cut it 25,000,000 gallons a day in June.

What were the Rip Van Desksitters in City  
Hall doing to fix a water system that has been  
decrepit for 50 years? Nothing. Once they  
yawned and asked Washington for a priority  
on the necessary materials. They got the  
priority, not the materials. War require-  
ments had taken all. Same old story: Too  
late! Now the Government has given them  
a higher priority. When will they get the  
materials? Nobody knows.

Nevertheless, homes, stores and factories  
saved water in a big way while cracked mains  
and fireplugs kept on wasting it.

We commend Philadelphians for this im-  
portant conservation, though their city offi-  
cials refused to plug the biggest single waste.

## NEW WATER MAIN UNDER CONTRACT

Roosevelt Boulevard to  
get 16-Inch Line, Welsh  
Road 12-Inch

John H. Neeson, Director of Pub-  
lic Works, awarded contracts today  
for the construction of a 6-inch  
water main in Roosevelt boulevard,  
from Welsh road to Southampton  
road and a 12-inch main in Welsh  
road and Grant av., from Bustleton  
av. to Krewstown road, at a cost of  
\$146,911.

"This is but one step," said Neeson,  
"in improving the distribution  
system in connection with the water  
works improvement project. It is  
now possible to proceed with the  
granting of the higher priority rat-  
ing by the War Production Board,  
after ten months of laborious nego-  
tiations.

"Existing mains are not large  
enough to supply the Byberry and  
Somerton areas, as well as other  
sections of the northeast, and fur-  
nish adequate fire protection. This  
has become more apparent since  
both the Army and the Navy have  
taken over large tracts in this  
section of the city and are rapidly  
proceeding with a construction pro-  
gram most essential to our national  
defense.

"The existing shortages there-  
fore, are intensified through war  
needs of the area for industrial-  
domestic uses and fire protection. Con-  
necting lines will eventually be laid  
in Byberry and Southampton roads  
from the boulevard line to the pro-  
posed storage tank site, which is  
included in the plans to meet fully  
the water requirements of the dis-  
trict.

"However, despite every effort to  
convince the WPB that this storage  
tank is a definite need of the com-  
munity, it insists that construction  
be deferred and declines to include  
it in the priority issued, because it  
involves structural steel.

"Nevertheless, the main to be  
laid under this contract will provide  
increased circulation as far as the  
Byberry and Somerton areas. The  
installation of the 12-inch main in  
Welsh road and Grant av. will elim-  
inate a bottleneck between two  
sections of the Torresdale high ser-  
vice district, improving the service to  
Fox Chase."

## June Water Consumption

PHILADELPHIANS piled up an-  
other impressive water conserva-  
tion score in June.

The average daily consumption was  
208 million gallons, 23 million gallons  
less than that of June a year ago.

There doesn't seem to be a rati-  
onal explanation of this except that  
the people of Philadelphia have heard  
and heeded the plea that they take  
from a system only such water as  
they really need.

The weather deserved no credit for  
this year's June had a much better  
right to sing "How Dry I Am" than  
last year's. The Weather Bureau re-  
ports 2.13 inches of rain in June of  
this year, as against 4.96 inches, more  
than twice as much in June, 1941.

Because the drafts on the water  
supply are so much lower, it is possi-  
ble to operate the pumps at consid-  
erably less than full capacity. That  
improves their chances of carrying the  
peak loads that lie immediately ahead  
without breakdown.

A serious breakdown would be a  
catastrophe. It is necessary to con-  
tinue to save every gallon possible.

## Higher Priority Granted for Materials Needed to Repair System.

Record's Washington Bureau  
WASHINGTON, July 13.—The  
War Production Board's Review  
and Approval Committee today  
approved Philadelphia's applica-  
tion for higher priority ratings  
covering the \$18,000,000 water pro-  
gram.

The formal order, barring some  
unforeseen snag, will be issued  
tomorrow, clearing the way at  
last for an actual start on the  
long-delayed rehabilitation job. It  
is in two parts—an A-1-a rating  
on materials required for the  
pumping equipment at the  
Lardner's Point and Torresdale  
stations, and an A-1-j on chemi-  
cals, steel pipe and wiring to be  
used in filtration plants.

### Pumps Ordered.

The pumps are now on order,  
the contracts having been award-  
ed a year ago, but their construc-  
tion has been held up by the man-  
ufacturers' inability to obtain ma-  
terials. The A-1-a rating will cor-  
rect that at once.

Leonard W. MacComber, mem-  
ber of WPB's Government Re-  
quirements Branch and Govern-  
ment consultant on the water  
program, said the A-1-j rating  
would assure the city of the  
other materials. The new ratings  
supersede an A-4 priority issued  
in March which Philadelphia's  
Director of Public Works John  
H. Neeson reported he found use-  
less.

### Year Behind Schedule.

The three-year rehabilitation  
program already is more than a  
year behind schedule. It origi-  
nally was scheduled for comple-  
tion by the end of 1943, and it is  
anybody's guess when it will be  
finished now, even with the new  
priorities. Neeson has promised,  
however, that it will go ahead as  
rapidly as possible.

The trouble is that Philadel-  
phia's successive Republican city  
administrations waited until after  
the outbreak of war in Europe  
to launch the water program.  
The voters approved an \$18,000,  
000 bond issue in the spring of  
1940 but by the time the de-  
tailed plans were drawn and spec-  
ifications were prepared (that  
took more than a year) war pro-  
duction was receiving precedence  
in the allocation of steel, brass  
and copper.

### Delay Doubles Cost.

But for City Council's hatred  
of the New Deal, the whole thing  
could have been done during the  
repression years, at little more  
than half the cost to the tax-  
payers.

The old Public Works Admin-  
istration for five years made out-  
right grants of 45 percent of the  
cost of just such projects but  
Council shut its eyes to the op-  
portunity. The City Fathers  
only had a change of heart  
in 1937, at by then WPA's  
day was gone.

## A-1 Priority For Phila. Water Project

Philadelphia has been granted  
high priority ratings for materials  
necessary to rehabilitate its water  
system, it was reported recently.

A top rating of A-1-A has been  
assigned by the War Production  
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ued at \$960,000 for the Lardner's  
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asked by Director of Public Works  
John H. Neeson several months ago  
when it became evident that a pre-  
vious rating of A-4 was virtually  
worthless in view of the heavy de-  
mands for critical materials.

Neeson, in seeking a higher rat-  
ing, emphasized the importance of  
the water system to Philadelphia

## A Problem for the Duration

THOUGH there is cause for gratifi-  
cation that the appeals for con-  
servation of water during the summer  
have resulted in a saving of 50,000,0  
gallons daily in the Philadelphia area,  
the report does not mean that the  
can be any let-up now.

The figures come from the Inte-  
state Commission on the Delaware  
River Basin, and were compiled from  
statistics of the three major water  
supply services in the area.

In Philadelphia itself, the saving  
of particular importance. There  
little prospect that the supply can  
increased until the after the war,  
though improved priority ratings are  
permitting the installation of some  
new mains and replacement of some  
ancient equipment. Demands of war  
industries for water are expected  
to be heavier next year.

An adequate supply for these es-  
sential plants depends on a continu-  
ance of the conservation measur-  
es saving water during the war  
even after the war.

## Oyster Shipment Arrives in Dock St.

Amid a gloomy outlook among  
dealers for filling market demands,  
the season's first shipment of oysters  
arrived in Dock st. yesterday.  
Wholesale prices are 20 percent  
higher this year.

The war has brought difficulties,  
with many oyster boats now in Gov-  
ernment service, many oystermen in  
the Coast Guard, and new difficul-  
ties in transportation. The bulk of  
the oysters received at Dock st. come  
from Delaware Bay.



# A NEW "PHILADELPHIA STORY"

Or, How a Systematic Water Waste Survey in Progress Has Already  
Saved Philadelphia a Needed 13,000,000 Gallons  
Daily to Meet Defense Demands

By MARTIN J. McLAUGHLIN  
Chief  
BUREAU OF WATER  
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

**D**URING the recent depression Philadelphia found herself, in common with most other municipalities, in straitened financial circumstances. Demands upon the water works system instead of increasing began to decrease and the need for making additions to the system ceased to exist. But with this contraction in use there was also a decrease in revenue and many improvements, and even items of maintenance had to be deferred. At length, in 1939, a committee of experts was appointed to investigate the water works system for the purpose of recommending improvements necessary to bring it into first class operating condition. A bond issue of \$18,000,000 was voted to pay for these improvements and engineers from the office of Morris Knowles of Pittsburgh, Pa., were employed to supervise the expenditure of this money.

However, the design of the needed additions would in itself consume considerable time and it seemed desirable to relieve the load on the system as much and as quickly as

possible. During the years from 1926 to 1931 The Pitometer Co. had been employed to make a Pitometer Water Waste Survey of the system. The results of that survey were most gratifying. Underground leakage of about 35,000,000 gallons per day had been located and repaired. House waste of approximately 50,000,000 gallons per day had been stopped and industrial meter under-registration of approximately 4,750,000 had been corrected.

## Waste Reduction First Logical Step

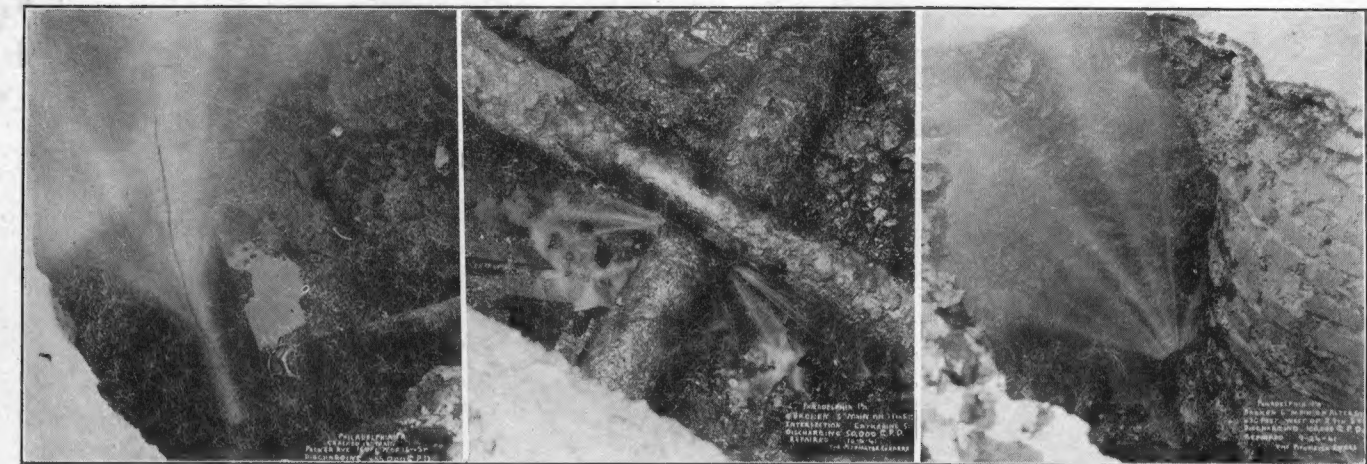
With a definite knowledge of the possibilities of conserving the available water supply by the elimination of the underground leakage which undoubtedly had developed since the previous survey, the city decided to again contract with The Pitometer Co. to make another Water Waste Survey of the distribution system, and arrangements were made with the WPA to furnish most of the labor in connection with the operation. To date all of West Philadelphia has been surveyed and the survey of that

section of the city lying to the south of Callowhill St. is approaching completion. An additional contract has recently been entered into covering a section of the city lying along the Delaware River northeast of the central part of the city.

## How the Survey Is Conducted

The survey is conducted in the following manner:

The district which is to be tested, and which includes an average of 8 miles of distribution main, is segregated by valve operation and all but one or two feeds in this district are shut off. Recording Pitometers are installed on these feed lines through 1 in. corporation cocks and the flow into the district measured for a twenty-four hour period. Indirect measurements are then made at night to determine the distribution of the night rate of flow in small one or two block "shut-outs." Manifestly where little or no flow exists at night there can be no leakage, but where the measurements show appreciable flows after midnight in-



A cracked 12" main shooting away 455,000 g.p.d.

More Typical Exhibits  
A 6" main carrying the weight of another failed for 50,000 g.p.d.

A good trick if it only worked. A sewer manhole found resting on a 6" main cost 100,000 g.p.d.

vestigations are made to determine the cause of the high flow. The actual location of the leak is determined by the use of sound intensifying instruments in the hands of engineers who have become proficient in this particular line of work through years of experience. It is very seldom that the leak is not located within the limits of the first excavation made for its repair.

Since the inauguration in 1940 of the defense program, the demand for water upon the Philadelphia water works system began to increase and had continued to increase as more and more industries turn to the manufacture of war material. All the water saved to date, by the elimination of underground leakage, has been made available for use by the war industries without further taxing the capacity of the existing system. That the savings to date have been of considerable assistance is evident from an analysis of the findings.

## The Most Important Sources of Waste

The largest single source of waste so far discovered has been leakage from the cast iron mains themselves, broken mains, split mains, and blown joints. A number from each source has been found. Up to date, 62 leaks of this kind have been located wasting a total of 4,369,000 gallons per day. In almost every case these breaks were caused by underground conditions, such as the construction of masonry structures by other utilities in such a way that a bearing load was placed upon the cast iron main. Several examples of leaks caused by this loading of the mains are shown in illustrations accompanying this article.

Next in importance based on the average size of the individual leak, though not in total waste, is the waste from leaking abandoned services. As is to be expected, leaks on dead services will average greater losses than leaks on live services because after a leak on a live service becomes large enough to affect the pressure, the consumer complains and the leak is repaired, but an abandoned or uncompleted service can become completely severed without being discovered unless the water finds its way to the surface. So far, 127 abandoned services have been found leaking, a total of 2,273,000 gallons per day.

There have also been located a large number of leaking services in use, and it is surprising to note how much water can escape each day from a leak in an ordinary domestic service before the pressure is affected to such an extent that the customer complains. A total of 373 live services have so far been found to be leaking 2,754,000 gallons per day.

Six miscellaneous leaks not included under any of the above headings were found to be wasting 146,000 gallons per day.

## Under-Registration of Large Meters an Important Item

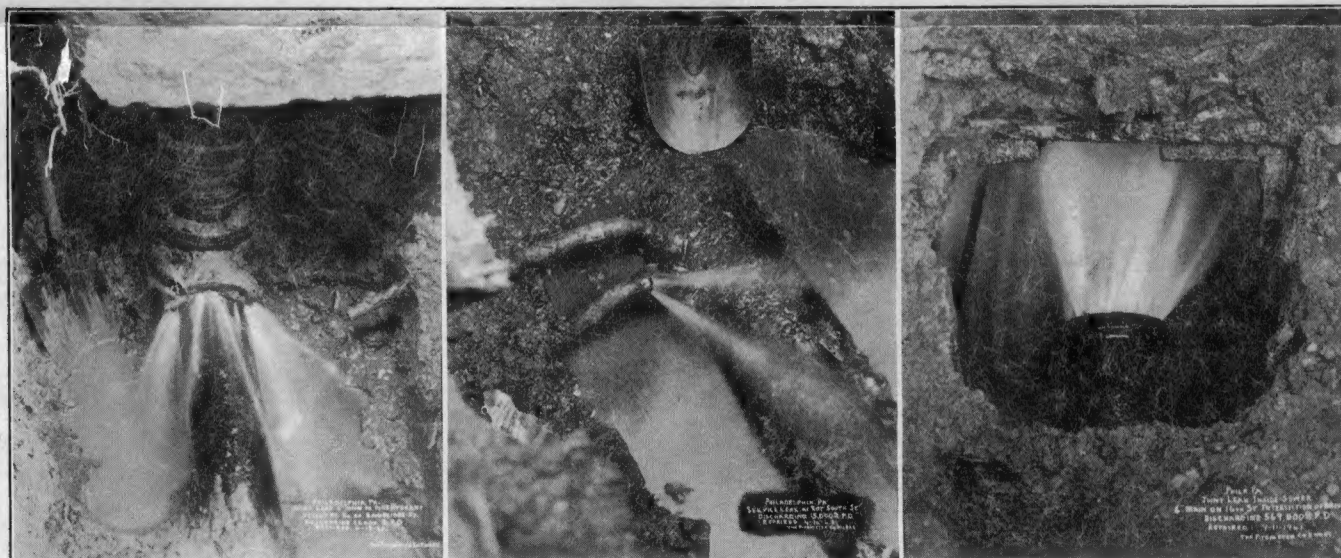
One feature of the survey, not previously mentioned, is the testing in place of industrial meters on 4 in. and larger services. Increased revenue resulting from the repair of defective meters discovered in this manner has been considerable. A total daily under-registration of 3,060,000 gallons has been discovered to date. Not all of this has been reflected in increased sales as a very large percentage of this amount was found on the meters supplying a semi-charitable con-

sumer. As the result of these findings this consumer greatly reduced its consumption of water so that the benefit to the department was in the nature of decreased consumption rather than increased revenue.

Altogether, a total of 13,000,000 gallons per day has been saved so far. About 40 per cent of the city has been covered and it is hoped and believed that savings will continue at about the same rate as the survey is extended into other parts of the city. Some idea as to how valuable a saving of 13,000,000 gallons per day is, can be visualized when we realize that it is enough water to supply an average American city of 130,000 persons with all the domestic and industrial water normally used. In this city, about a ton and a half of coal is required to pump a million gallons of water, so that the indicated savings from this one item are about 7,000 tons, or 150 freight cars annually. Aside from the cost this is a distinct contribution to the war effort by the relief it affords our over-burdened railroads. There have been additional savings of power, chemicals, etc. While Philadelphia uses very little chlorine, when compared to most cities, it is still true that the savings of a million gallons of water per day results in the saving of approximately a ton of chlorine per year. Although the money value of the twelve or thirteen tons saved each year is not large it is a distinct contribution to the war effort as it conserves a critical material.

## A By-Product of the Survey

A by-product of the survey has been the location of closed and defective valves and many valves have been found in each category. The



The effect of traffic on a 6" fire hydrant joint—25,000 g.p.d.

Some of Our "Philadelphia Story"  
A typical service leak of which there were many—15,000 g.p.d.

This 6" main, actually in a sewer, was discharging 569,000 g.p.d.



closed valves were opened and the defective ones repaired. This has not only put us in a better shape to make shut downs for routine repairs, but has also improved our ability to quickly cut out sections where mains may at some future time be broken as the result of enemy bombing.

Although the financial savings to the city have been more than enough to justify the survey, the greatest present benefit has been the relief which it affords to our water system.

heavily loaded as it is with war demands. We realize its full value when we contemplate the effect of adding to our present demand the necessity for filtering, pumping, and distributing an additional 13,000,000 gallons of water per day. This is equivalent to the construction of a pumping station, filtration plant and transmission main of sufficient capacity to supply 13,000,000 gallons per day.

Due to the difficulty in obtaining priorities and the inability to secure

the necessary materials, the water works improvement program has of necessity been materially slowed up, and it is questionable whether or not the benefits from this program will be felt in time to assist in the present emergency. It can, therefore, be seen how essential it is to conserve every available gallon of water in the City of Philadelphia, by the elimination of all sources of waste, such as is being done by the Pitometer Water Waste Survey now in progress.

## Those Mythical Mains

Philadelphia's City Hall repeatedly has been held up to public censure for doing nothing about the scandalous water situation.

Now we are able to report the City Hall are doing something about it.

Yes, indeed. While factories, households and all users of water are being urged to save every drop they can—

We find from the newest report of the Committee of Seventy that the City is wasting, not by the drop but by the million, that \$18,000,000 fund which voters approved in 1940 for rebuilding the water system.

In two and a half years since the water bond referendum, the committee reports, \$1,200,520 has been spent.

Of this, only \$742,740, or about 60 percent, has been spent for materials and supplies.

The other 40 percent, or \$457,780, has been spent—you guessed it—on the payroll, where 100 jobs have sprouted.

The committee consulted engineers who returned an opinion that while further tech-

## City's water safe despite pollution, Hewitt declares

Despite the fact that water pollution at the Dunne crib off the South Side has set a new high, Oscar E. Hewitt, commissioner of public works, gave assurance today that the water is safe for drinking.

Amounts of chlorine used for purification have been doubled on many days, Hewitt said, to guarantee that water for the 1,500,000 persons served from the crib would be safe.

During September, the bacteria coli test showed an average of 6,907 per 100 cubic centimeters, double the count for August, and far above the high of 1,424 set in September of 1941.

Mayor Kelly, who returned from Washington yesterday after a conference with Rep. A. J. Sabath on his bill to increase water diversion for Chicago, said he was confident something soon would happen on the bill, now before the rivers and harbors committee.

The hearing, however, has been delayed, he said, because the committee has been unable to get a quorum recently. That he blamed on members being absent for election campaigns.

## A SINGLE BIDDER ON \$1,000,000 JOB

### Metal Shortages Prevent Others From Seeking City Contract.

The city received just one bid yesterday for construction of a building for the new Torresdale pumping station, together with water piping, valves and equipment.

Kaufman Construction Company, of Philadelphia, asked \$1,088,888 for the job. Officials attributed absence of other bids to difficulty in obtaining critical metals.

The city has an A-1-a priority covering about one-fifth of the \$18,000,000 water program and an A-1-j for the rest. A-1-a is sixth from the top—AAA and AA-1 to AA-4 are ahead of it.

The pumps themselves were contracted for more than a year ago and will be ready for installation late this year or early next.

## WPB AIDE TO INSPECT WATER SYSTEM HERE

The Philadelphia water system will be inspected today by Arthur E. Gorman, head of the WPB water production section, it was announced yesterday at a regional conference of the American Waterworks Association.

Gorman will be conducted on the tour by J. McLaughlin, chief of Bureau of Water, who told the conference the system "is not abnormal imposed on it."

## CITY ASKS 2 BIDS ON WATER PLANTS

### New Pumping Station and Filtration Treatment Works Planned.

The city took its largest single step in the \$18,000,000 water system improvement program yesterday with a call for bids on \$3,500,000 worth of construction.

The job comprises two separate contracts. One is for the building of a new pumping station at Torresdale, expected to cost about \$1,800,000. The other is for a preliminary treatment plant at the Queen Lane filtration station, to cost around \$1,700,000.

### Work to Take Year.

Bids on the first contract will be opened September 28. Those on the second, which is being readvertised, will be opened September 23. The contract is being readvertised because the low bid on the first advertising recently was slightly in excess of the \$1,700,000 limit set by city engineers.

The work is expected to take a year to complete. The two projects will bring to about \$8,000,000 the sum spent or committed thus far under the \$18,000,000 program.

### Delayed by Priorities.

The program was approved by Philadelphia voters in the spring of 1940. Preparation of engineering plans consumed about a year. Recently difficulties over Government priorities for materials have been blamed by the city for the apparent tardiness of the program.

Though priorities undoubtedly are a factor now, the entire program could have been launched and completed long ago if City Council had been willing to accept Government funds for the purpose.

The Water Bureau also announced yesterday a saving of nearly 4½ percent in water consumption last month as a result of the drive to conserve water for war needs.



## Saving Water Will Help

Helping to win the war by saving water is not so far-fetched as it may sound.

Philadelphians can do that very thing during the coming months.

War industries in this area must have plenty of water. Thousands of war workers who have flocked to the city must have water in their homes. To meet these vastly increased demands the city cannot expand its distribution facilities. To make ends meet, water use must be limited as much as possible to essentials.

There is no lack of water itself. The two rivers at our doors provide an ample supply. But drinking water is a manufactured product. It has to be filtered and pumped and piped to the thousands of outlets where the consumer turns on the spigots.

Our water system can accommodate only so many gallons a day. Plans have been made to increase that capacity, but the improvements cannot be completed this summer.

Even normal demands of the hot weather season strain the plant's resources to the utmost. A sudden drought has been a possibility in every recent summer.

This year to the usual consumption are added the extraordinary requirements of new plants and new residents numbered in the thousands.

To make the available water go around, waste must be avoided.

It is for this reason that the city and the Defense Council launched some weeks ago a campaign of education and appeal directed at conservation of water during the summer months, when demands are greatest.

The results of that campaign to date have just been made public, and they provide eloquent testimony to the willingness of the people to co-operate in every war-helpful measure.

During May of last year the daily average consumption in Philadelphia was 325,000,000 gallons. For May of this year that total was cut to 307,000,000 gallons. During June, 1941, the daily average consumption was 331,000,000 gallons. For June of this year it dropped to 305,000,000 gallons.

This June saving of an average daily 23,000,000 gallons is a remarkably fine showing. Last month contained many hot, dry days and normally consumption would surely have equaled the figures for the same month last year.

That these showed a large decrease, despite the abnormal demands of the industrial area, is a tribute to the co-operation of the public and an effective demonstration of the huge savings possible by a little joint action.

In homes and buildings throughout the city, defective plumbing, worn-out washers, loose spigots and leaky pipes have been wasting an immense amount of water.

Because of carelessness or thoughtlessness, aggravated by the low cost of water in the city and the absence in so many homes of meters, millions of gallons have been dissipated every day.

The plea for conservation, so that our war effort shall not be hampered by lack of water, has apparently borne fruit in the savings of the last two months. Continued and increased efforts along the same line can carry us past the danger mark of midsummer without the disaster of a shortage.

This is not one of those brief, spectacular campaigns in which the public can engage for a few days or weeks and then relax. Today's savings have to be repeated tomorrow and even stepped up for the remainder of the summer at least.

We have shown already that we can get along on less water than was used in May and June last year. If we repair leaks, if we avoid the unnecessary use of water, we can keep our plants within their capacity, we can assure everyone an adequate supply and we can be helping to win the war.

# WPB to Inspect Water System

## Will Determine Need Here for Improvement

A high official of the War Production Board will inspect Philadelphia's antiquated water system today, to determine whether the city should be given the final go-ahead sign for needed war-time improvements.

The official, Arthur E. Gorman, chief of the Water Production Section, Power Branch of the WPB, made this disclosure himself yesterday as he arrived to address a regional conference of the American Water Works Association at the Benjamin Franklin.

### LINKED TO WAR EFFORT

Gorman declared he knew "nothing" about the Philadelphia water system but, he said, the WPB would indorse improvements for water systems only as a method of aiding the war effort.

"I am here to obtain the facts which I will present to the WPB," he declared.

Martin J. McLaughlin, chief of the Bureau of Water, said Gorman would be taken to the Queen Lane filter plant, where the bureau hopes to build a \$1,800,000 pre-treatment plant, and to Torresdale, where plans have been made for the erection of a \$1,083,000 pumping station.

### BIDS RECEIVED

Bids for both projects have been received, McLaughlin said, but no decision on them has been reached.

Improvements at the Queen Lane plant would relieve the load on filter beds, while contemplated construction at Torresdale includes piping and valves as well as a new pumping station, he said.

Earlier, in addressing the conference, McLaughlin said flatly that the Philadelphia water system "is not equipped to meet the abnormal demands imposed upon it by war-time conditions."

### BREAKDOWN FEARED

Long before the wartime rise in water consumption here, officials of the bureau warned that the system was faced with the ever-present danger of a breakdown in one or more parts.

Breakdown of an important part, they declared, would place a heavy strain on other sections of the system and would force curtailment of the supply in the adjacent sections of the city and might even cut off water entirely for a period.

McLaughlin told the conference that the \$25,000,000 water rehabilitation and improvement program approved by voters in the 1939 election, had "hardly been given a start" before war came.

### 25 PCT. INCREASE

"Before Pearl Harbor the maximum daily water consumption was 400 million gallons, which is approximately the capacity of our system," he reported. "But after Dec. 7, war plants increased the use of water by 25 percent," he said.

The city was able to meet this sudden increase only through an intense summer water conservation campaign, McLaughlin reported. He credited newspapers and the radio for the success of the campaign.

### VALUE STRENGTH

In addressing an afternoon session of the conference, in which the Pennsylvania Water Works Operators' Association is participating, Gorman said the WPB considered water as critical a war material as steel.

## PRIORITIES SOUGHT FOR WATER PLANT

Director Neeson Declares

Breakdown now would be a Calamity

"A breakdown in Philadelphia's water supply and distribution system now would be a calamity,"

The acute water situation of the city was thus epitomized today by Director of Public Works John H. Neeson, in an address at the weekly luncheon of the Rotary Club in the Bellevue-Stratford.

Neeson described in detail what he considers the necessity for Federal authorities to grant more priorities for the purchase of materials necessary to carry out the most urgent features of the city's water rehabilitation program which has been mapped out at an estimated total cost of \$18,000,000. The money was made available in a municipal loan approved by the voters in April, 1940.

### Aids at Capital

While the Director was speaking, four of his engineering assistants were in Washington to confer with the Water Power Branch of the War Production Board. The delegation included Martin J. McLaughlin, chief of the Bureau of Water, and Seth M. Van Loan, former bureau chief and now special engineer in charge of the rehabilitation program.

The Rotarians were told by Neeson that the only improvements for which the city can hope to obtain Federal permission at present are those which will increase or conserve the flow of water to plants in war industry.

"All public works projects, unless to facilitate war work, are out for the duration," he said. "If our nation had not been thrown into the war, 70 per cent of our water project would be well under way now."

### Heavy Expense Faced

"The defense plants have accounted for a relatively small part of the increase in water consumption here in the past 18 months, but it must be maintained in any event. Unless more material can be obtained, the city faces the alternative of constant vigilance and heavy maintenance expense."

## WPB Will Inspect Water System

An inspection of Philadelphia's water system to determine if its improvement would aid the war effort, will be made today by Arthur E. Gorman, chief of the Water Production Section, Power Branch of the WPB.

Martin J. McLaughlin, chief of the Bureau of Water, said Gorman would be taken to the Queen Lane filter plant, where the bureau hopes to build a \$1,800,000 pre-treatment plant, and to Torresdale, where plans have been made for the erection of a new pumping station. Gorman revealed he would indorse improvements only as a method for aiding war production.

# '70' CHARGES BIG WASTE IN WATER FUNDS

40 P. C. Spent on 100-Man Payroll, Says Group.

Forty percent of all the money spent thus far for rehabilitation of Philadelphia's broken-down water system has been devoted to a 100-man payroll, it was charged yesterday by the Committee of Seventy.

### Waste Charged.

"We are informed by engineering authorities that further technical work and designing was necessary after the preliminary plan for rebuilding and repairing was presented by the consulting engineers on April 3, 1940," read a committee letter.

"But they do not believe it required the services of 100 persons over this long period of time and the expenditure of \$457,000."

### \$1,200,520 Already Spent.

The committee said that in the two and a half years since the voters approved an \$18,000,000 bond issue \$1,200,520 has been spent, of which only about 60 percent—\$742,740—went for payments on contracts and materials.

The letter conceded that priorities may postpone for several years "important parts of the rehabilitation plan," and estimated that the delay would increase the net cost by approximately 25 percent, or \$450,000.

"If the present rate of spending continues," it was charged, "by the time the city can secure equipment to proceed with some phases of the plan, a large portion of the \$18,000,000 will have been frittered away in unessential payrolls. The loan payroll should be substantially reduced at once and the money reserved for contracts and material."

### Voter Apathy Attacked.

Elsewhere in the letter the committee attacked voter apathy, pointing out that in the September, 1941, primary only 25 percent of registered voters here bothered to go to the polls, and in May of this year only 32 percent.

The November 3 election this year is "no casual election," voters were warned. "More is required of you this time than a rubber stamp vote, a pull of the straight party lever, or a thoughtless, unconsidered vote as a favor to a friend." The committee pointed out that the electorate would choose men who have "an important part in the conduct of the war."

Also assailed was the continuation of "phantom voting" and the cost of registering voters. It was predicted that costs here would jump from 29.2 cents in 1941 to about 40 cents this year on the basis of money already spent.

# WATER JOB PAYROLL TOO HIGH, SAYS '70'

The Committee of Seventy yesterday charged that 40 percent of the amount spent thus far on the rehabilitation of Philadelphia's water system has been expended on a 100-man payroll.

"If the present rate of spending continues," the committee said in a letter, "by the time the city can secure equipment to proceed with some phases of the rehabilitation plan, a large portion of the \$18,000,000 (provided by vote for the program) will have been frittered away in unessential payrolls."

### NEW DESIGNS NEEDED

"The long payroll should be substantially reduced at once, and the money reserved for contracts and material."

The committee made the charge after it said it had been informed "by engineering authorities that further technical work and designing was necessary after the preliminary plan for rebuilding and repairing (of the system) was presented by the consulting engineers on April 3, 1940."

"But they do not believe it required the services of 100 persons over this long period of time, and the expenditure of \$457,000."

### \$1,200,520 SPENT

Since Philadelphia's voters approved the \$18,000,000 waterworks bond issue two and a half years ago, \$1,200,520 of the sum has been spent, of which about "only" 60 percent was expended on contracts and materials.

The committee conceded "important parts of the rehabilitation plan" may be postponed years by priorities and estimated that that factor would increase net costs by 25 percent, or \$450,000.

nical work was involved in the City's plans, the \$457,780 payroll for that purpose was way out of line.

Obviously, as the Committee of Seventy observes, at the present rate a large part of the \$18,000,000 for a new water system will have been squandered on unessential payrolls before its construction is well under way.

Which bears out the old City Hall tradition—that Philadelphia's GOP administration spends as little as possible for service to the public, but never hesitates to spend lavishly to keep itself in power.

# City Asks Higher Priority For Waterworks Program

Striving to obtain higher priorities in order that Philadelphia can go through with at least the most vital part of its waterworks rehabilitation program, city Water Bureau officials conferred for nearly four hours yesterday in Washington with officials of the power branch of the War Production Board.

No final decision was reached, WPB announced. A transcript of the conversations will go to Herbert S. Marks, head of the branch, and he or possibly an even higher official will make the ultimate decision. The Philadelphia delegation appeared hopeful at the conclusion of the long session.

### ENGINEERS REPORT

Three WPB engineers, who came to the city three weeks ago to look over the pumping stations, reported on their findings at the meeting.

Although the voters approved an \$18,000,000 bond issue to pay for the

# NEESON SAYS WPB IS RESPONSIBLE IF WATER FAILS

Asserts Industry here is Threatened by 'Evasion' on Repair Program

UNABLE TO GET PRIORITY

Director John A. Neeson, of Public Works, notified the War Production Board today that it will have to accept full responsibility if Philadelphia's water supply breaks down and this city's war effort is paralyzed.

The director's statement followed reports he received of a conference in Washington yesterday of Martin J. McLaughlin, chief of the Bureau of Water; Seth M. Van Loan, consulting engineer in charge of the \$18,000,000 water supply rehabilitation program; John M. Brogini, superintendent of pumping stations, and Nathan M. Jacobs, of Pittsburgh, consulting engineer for the city.

A final ruling is expected from Herbert S. Marks, chief of the WPB power branch.

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Although the voters approved an \$18,000,000 bond issue to pay for the

# Blaming Uncle Sam For City Hall's Sins

Your collection of stage jokes is incomplete unless you've heard the newest one from Philadelphia's GOPlundered City Hall: Blaming the Federal Government for any breakdown in Philadelphia's decrepit water system.

Of course, everybody knows it wasn't Uncle Sam who allowed this utility to fall into wrack and ruin during the city's half-century of political mismanagement.

Nobody knows this better than Public Works Director John H. Neeson, who told the Rotary Club, Wednesday, that chief responsibility for deterioration of the city water system lies with "the indecisive policy" of past city administrations. Neeson added:

"Philadelphia can lay claim more than any other city to the distinction of talking more about new sources of water supply and doing less about it."

But that applies to the entire water situation. And it applies to the present City Hall administration, which is dominated by the same old GOP machine. Voters approved an \$18,000,000 water rehabilitation program in April, 1941—but the City Hall master minds refused to undertake this program until after war was declared and essential materials no longer were obtainable.

Yet in another breath Director Neeson issues a statement notifying the War Production Board that, having refused to divert war materials for the water system, WPB will have to accept full responsibility for any breakdown in equipment.

That's like blaming Washington for Philadelphia's dirty streets or any of the other abundant evidences of mismanagement in City Hall.

For Philadelphia's water disgrace is nothing new. Far back in the time of another war—the Spanish-American War—Katherine Bingham wrote of Philadelphia's water system:

"Philadelphia, once noted for its cleanliness, showed all too plainly the result of poor government. A heavy rain stirred up the water in the reservoirs to such a degree that it required some determination to bathe in it. Even after the water had been boiled and filtered for use on the table . . . the sight of it rendered one miserable and despondent."

The War Production Board, at its hearing this week on the city's appeal for higher priority on repair materials, heard much the same story from its own engineers, who inspected the city system. They reported they were "amazed at the rundown condition found" in a system "neglected and apparently riddled with politics for years."

They found that although water revenues averaged \$6,000,000 a year "little or no money has been spent in recent years to keep the plant in repair."

Why? Because GOPolicy in City Hall today, as for a half-century, has been to spend as little as possible on essential municipal services—and as much as possible on political purposes dedicated to keeping the machine in power.

Now that the results of this policy threaten the city's war-time water supply—the buck is passed to Washington. We shall expect Washington to pass it right back where it belongs.



# WATERWORKS OVERHAUL OFF FOR DURATION

Record 11-19-42  
System to Be Patch-  
ed Up, But Not  
Rehabilitated.

By WINDSOR BOOTH

Record's Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18—Philadelphia's long-delayed \$18,000,000 waterworks modernization program apparently is going to have to wait now until after the war.

War Production Board engineers told WPB power branch officials in a closed hearing today that the decrepit system can be patched up and made to do for the duration, thereby releasing critical materials for uses they consider even more vital.

Pumps to Be Diverted.

Under their plan, it was understood, 15 new electrical pumps now on order—and 75 percent completed—to replace the wheezy old steam-driven equipment at the Lardner's Point and Torresdale pumping stations would be diverted to mushroom war production centers where there is no pumping capacity at all to supply the rapidly increasing population.

The WPB engineers, it was learned, were severely critical of the Philadelphia Water Bureau's maintenance of present equipment. New pumping stations, they reported, would not solve the city's problem unless they were given far better care than that given existing equipment.

Final Decision.

The final decision will come from Herbert S. Marks, chief of the WPB power branch, after a review of the transcript of today's hearing. Reports emanating from the session, however, left little doubt in the minds of observers that he will uphold the engineers' findings.

The engineers were under no illusion about the Philadelphia water system. They inspected it themselves recently and said they were "amazed at the run-down condition we found."

The system has been "neglected and apparently riddled with pol-

itics for years," they said, finding that although the water rents have been producing revenues of more than \$6,000,000 a year, little or no money has been spent in recent years to keep the plant in repair.

Some 40 Years Old.

Nevertheless, they declared, the old steam pumping equipment—some of it nearly 40 years old—still can be repaired, at least to a point where it can be made to serve. And that would take far less critical materials than new equipment.

emphasized that an adequate water supply is vitally essential for industry. Government officials were told repeatedly that under the circumstances the city could not guarantee the service of water supply unless the work was permitted to go through and sufficiently high priorities were granted on needed materials.

Still No Action

"The WPB engineers have been in Philadelphia for more than a year and they all agree with me that the plant needed replacement. The first group of engineers made a favorable report but still there was no action from WPB. The plant was permitted to get in such condition through WPB's failure to give us adequate priority ratings—and this in the face of increased water demands of the Army, Navy and war industry—that they were finally driven to consider the deferment of the work. I said I would consider it if the critical situation regarding our pumping plants was given prompt consideration by the Federal Government."

"While we wanted to be helpful it was necessary to consider Philadelphia's contribution to armament. A breakdown would mean less guns and fewer ships."

Situation Called Grave  
Chief McLaughlin and his associates reported to Director Neeson upon their return to Philadelphia, stressing the gravity of the situation.

"Any WPB proposal providing for less than the essential machinery Director Neeson has asked is simply an invitation to trouble and we so advised the WPB engineers," said McLaughlin. "The only guarantee that Philadelphia's water supply will be able to meet the added demands of the war effort is that

this city shall be furnished with the essential pumping units demanded by the director."

McLaughlin said that he and his associates stressed the need of quick action by the Federal Government and were emphatic in rejecting the suggestion that temporary expedients might be devised to get along without the new equipment.

"The position of the city representatives is that WPB has no more important problem before it than protecting Philadelphia's water supply," said McLaughlin.

WPB Advocates Repairs

The WPB engineers submitted a report on the condition of the Philadelphia water system, declaring that although it is operating with 40-year-old steam equipment it can be repaired to the point where it will serve.

City representatives quoted the WPB engineers as saying they are convinced Philadelphia can continue to make out with its present pumping stations, adding that there is no guarantee the stations if begun would be completed before the end of the war.

McLaughlin and Van Loan strongly opposed the assertion of WPB engineers that the Lardner's Point pumping station, although admittedly out of date, "will last for 100 years if given reasonable care."

One high official, discussing the possibility that stations now under construction may not be completed until after the war, said:

"Our engineers are convinced that Philadelphia can make out with its present pumping stations, provided they are rehabilitated and kept in repair. The fact that the new stations are nearly finished is no guarantee either that they will be finished before the war is over, or that they will not be moved to another district."

A large part of the hearing was given over to discussion of the Lardner's Point pumping station, he said. The Philadelphia delegation contended Lardner's Point is hopelessly out of date and no longer serviceable.

"Will Last 100 Years."

WPB engineers said: "The station will last 100 years if it is given reasonable care. About all it needs is its shafts recentered. The pumping station is ruggedly constructed, and its parts are slow moving. Pumping stations of the Lardner's Point type can stand neglect and abuse far better than the complicated, electrically driven pumps, the Water Bureau is asking for."

Today's hearing, presided over by Arthur E. Gorman, chief of the water production division of WPB's power branch, was attended by three Department of Public Works officials from Philadelphia—Martin J. McLaughlin, chief of the Water Bureau; Seth M. Van Loan, engineer in charge of the rehabilitation program, and John M. Broginni, superintendent of pumping stations—and Nathan M. Jacobs, of Pittsburgh, consulting engineer on the project.

The Philadelphians renewed the city's plea for higher priorities than the present A-1-a and A-1-j ratings on the water program, which they said were too low to be of much value.

McLaughlin, in reply to questions, said there was no thought of improving the water supply itself—the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers would continue to be the source—but the capacity would be increased to meet the 30-million gallon rise in daily demand since 1941.

"Chlorine Cocktail."

The improved, modern purification equipment which was an integral part of the original program, designed to outmode the notorious "chlorine cocktail," apparently has been shelved for the duration already.

While the engineers were presenting their case here, their chief, Director of Public Works John H. Neeson, was telling the Rotary Club in Philadelphia that the only improvements for which the city could hope to obtain Federal permission now were those which would increase or conserve the flow of water to war plants.

Cites Heavy Expense.

Neeson said 70 percent of the program authorized by the voters in April, 1940, would be well under way now except for the war and that the delay causes a continual threat of a breakdown and forces "constant vigilance and heavy maintenance expense."

But he conceded that the chief responsibility for the present plight lies with the "indiscrimi-

Patenting Up Favored

After the hearing, presided over by Arthur E. Gorman, chief of the water production division of WPB's power branch, it was indicated that WPB engineers favor patching up rather than rehabilitating the city's water system until the end of the war in order to conserve critical materials for uses which they consider even more vital.

Fifteen electrical pumps now on order and 75 per cent complete are to be shifted to other localities where war munitions are being made.

It was indicated that the present inadequate, steam-driven pumps will continue in operation at Lardner's Point and Torresdale.

'Mere Evasion'

"This is merely an evasion," said Director Neeson. "I call upon the WPB engineers to show me any place in America where an adequate water supply is more needed than in Philadelphia and where the breakdown of that supply will be more disastrous to the war effort."

"The WPB is trifling with danger—serious danger. If Philadelphia's water pumping equipment breaks

(Continued on 2d Page following, Col. One)

down under the tremendous additional strain now imposed upon it, war industries valued at billions of dollars will be affected.

Serves Notice

"I want to serve notice at this time of the danger and to declare that the city administration will not accept responsibility of such a disaster. This problem is squarely in the lap of WPB engineers including Chief Marks. I want Mr. Marks to tell me where—in or out of military service—critical metals are more vitally needed than they are in the rehabilitation of Philadelphia's water supply. It is my reasoned opinion that he cannot do this. The statements of his own engineers support my position."

"In the beginning of my negotiations with OPA and the War Production Board I asked for 49,000 tons of critical material, valued at \$5,600,000. They dilly-dallied with that for five months. I then agreed to a reduction to 33,000 tons and at the end of five months I received an A-4 priority rating which was useless."

Refused Advance

"They refused to advance the priority at any time during the negotiations, but subsequently WPB advanced it to A-1 and A-1-C. The A-1-C rating covered chemical equipment valued at \$750,000. The difference between this figure and the \$5,300,000 represented the cost of critical metals."

"In the meantime I advertised the pumping contracts for Torresdale and Lardner's point pumping station in August-September, 1941. We also ordered pipe-line extension contracts."

"Both contractors and manufacturers found it virtually impossible to obtain anything under an A-1-J rating because WPB had superimposed AA-1 to AA-4 ratings on top

of the single A rating. As a result we went ahead, advertised for construction bids for Queen Lane filtration work and the Torresdale pumping station. We were constantly changing plans with the result that we did not have in the filtration plant or the new pumping station the materials specified by the original design."

Little Success

"We have had little success in keeping our construction work under way. From the outset in all my conferences with the Government I stressed the fact that the city's water plant was obsolete, worn out due to deferred maintenance, and we had billions of dollars worth of armament contracts under way in Philadelphia that depended on an ample water supply. There is in addition the problem of war workers being added to the city's population."

# CITY WATER PERIL PUT AT WPB DOOR

RECORD 11/24/42  
Washington to Blame If  
Rundown System Fails,  
Neeson Says.

See editorial, "Blaming Uncle Sam for City Hall's Sins."

Director of Public Works John H. Neeson intimated yesterday that politics in Washington was responsible for Philadelphia's failure to get the War Production Board's approval of the city's program for rehabilitating the water works.

"If I had gone to certain people in Washington, I could have gotten those pumps," he declared.

City Policy Blamed.  
The WPB, he said, must accept full responsibility if the city's water system breaks down.

On Wednesday Neeson told the Rotary Club the "indisicive policy" of previous city administrations was responsible for the present emergency.

Neeson charged that "the three WPB engineers who came here to make inspections did not even submit a written report."

Final Ruling Awaited.

The final WPB ruling has not come from Washington, but comments made by officials after a hearing Wednesday indicated the city's appeal will be turned down—and that even the 15 pumps now 75 percent completed may be taken over for other areas.

Neeson pointed out that the WPB spokesmen criticized the city sharply because of the run-down condition of the water system, and then said the system will have to be patched up.

# NEESON HITS WPB FOR WATER CRISIS

Philadelphia is not getting the new electrical water pumps it needs because its application to the War Production Board was made on merit, and not through "certain people," John H. Neeson, Director of Public Works, charged yesterday.

"If I had gone to certain people I could have gotten those pumps," he asserted, "but I tried to get them on the basis of merit."

"I know of a water project completed in an Eastern city, application for which was made six months after I submitted Philadelphia's application."

He added that "you might ask Mr. Maury Maverick, head of the Government Requirements Bureau of WPB, about this."

The Works Director declared that WPB would have to take full responsibility if Philadelphia's water supply, essential to this city's war effort, breaks down.

Although WPB had not made its decision on the city's application for 15 new pumps to replace ancient steam-powered pumps now in use, WPB engineers reported at a conference with city representatives at Washington Wednesday that the steam pumps could be fixed up and made to work.

Indications were that Philadelphia's request was to be turned down on the ground that the city can get by with its present equipment repaired, while the pumps are badly needed in other "mushroom" war-producing communities which have no pumping facilities at all.

# Water System Patching Won't Do

WPB's refusal to grant priorities for badly needed improvements to the Philadelphia waterworks is a direct threat to the water supply system in the Nation's foremost war industry centre.

Should the system break down, with calamitous consequences to plants turning out billions of dollars' worth of war contracts, responsibility, as Director of Public Works Neeson asserts, will rest with the WPB.

But that will be small satisfaction. We can't just shrug our shoulders, say that Washington must bear the blame and let it go at that. The city administration must persist in its efforts to obtain the improvements.

That the pumping stations and other supply facilities are in a deplorable state is well known. Even the WPB engineers admit that. But they insist that the present pumps and other equipment should be patched up somehow or other and that the 15 new electric pumps ordered by the city and now nearing completion should be sent to other war industry cities.

If these engineers can show how further patching is possible on the antiquated machinery now serving the city; if they can point to any other community in the country where a breakdown in the water supply would be more disastrous to the war effort than in Philadelphia, the latest report might be regarded as fairly reasonable.

It is easily demonstrable that nothing short of wholesale rehabilitation will make our water facilities danger-proof, and that, if materials for water projects are to be made available for any city, Philadelphia rightfully has first call on them.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1942

Tying the City's Hands

ALTHOUGH WPB's final word on priority for Philadelphia's water works rehabilitation has not been spoken, intimation has been given that needed new equipment will not be authorized. Under the circumstances, responsibility in event of a breakdown rests squarely with WPB.

The City's applications were filed almost eighteen months ago. Prompt action then would have meant the improvement would have been well on the way to completion now.

In Wednesday's conference, WPB officials made it fairly clear that the City will have to get along with what it has, trusting to luck that maintenance and makeshifts will prevent suspension of vital service.

How extensive this maintenance and repair work will be is uncertain. There is no way of forecasting when a piece of machinery may decide to give up the ghost. But it is certain that funds for such repairs and maintenance must come out of current revenues, and that the \$18,000,000 water loans cannot be used.

Such repair work to keep the water plants going is at best a temporary job. In three or four years it must be done over. These makeshifts are expensive.

Presumably WPB knows that there are other communities where the situation is as bad as in Philadelphia, or worse; where water supply to war industries and Government establishments is as vital, and to which the machinery this city expected is to be transferred. If it doesn't know that, the responsibility in event of a breakdown will be even graver, and may be tragic. The City's hands are tied.

# WPB MAY ALLOW 2 WATER PUMPS FOR PHILADELPHIA

RECORD 11/24/42  
Agency Writes Neeson  
for More Details on  
Rehabilitation Plan.

By WINDSOR BOOTH

Record's Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20—WPB probably will allocate enough critical material to complete two of the 15 electric pumps the Philadelphia Water Bureau has on order, officials disclosed here today.

WPB engineers have told Herbert S. Marks, chief of the power branch, that two new pumps, plus rehabilitation of the city's present equipment, will keep the Philadelphia water system going for the duration.

Wrote to Neeson.

Meanwhile, power branch officials announced they have written to Director of Public Works John H. Neeson, asking additional information on the amount of critical materials needed to complete the co-called "Philadelphia plan," which includes installation of 15 electric pumps and abandonment of present equipment.

The information Neeson is asked to furnish will be checked against a plan proposed by WPB engineers, which is to center shafts and repair existing facilities and to install no more than two electric pumping stations.

Seek Prompt Reply.

Arthur E. Gorman, head of WPB's water production division, said he hopes Neeson can supply the information early next week, so WPB can make a prompt decision.

There was no response here to remarks made by Neeson that the city has been dealing with the wrong people in Washington and that another Eastern city, applying six months later than Philadelphia, was granted all the critical material it required.

Maury Maverick, chief of WPB's municipal requirements branch and the only official in a position to reply to Neeson, was out of the city today.

# Priority Decision Denied by WPB

A spokesman for the War Production Board, in Washington, yesterday said that "no decision or promise of any kind has been made" regarding priorities to improve the Philadelphia water system.

This statement was made in reply to an announcement by James P. Clark, chairman of the Democratic City Committee, that he had been advised by Senator Joseph Guffey that Philadelphia had been granted sufficient priorities for the water project.

Philadelphia Water Department  
Historical Collection  
2004.019.0006B



# Phila. Wants Too Much, WPB Says in Dispute Over Water Program

**INQUIRER** By HUGH MORROW  
Inquirer Washington Bureau  
WASHINGTON, Nov. 20.—A War Production Board source said today that Philadelphia "is trying to build a permanent water

system in wartime, and the materials simply are not available." This source and others indicated that everything possible would be done to give the city enough materials for waterworks improvements to maintain the supply through the war, emphasizing that the city's plant was in "terrible" condition, and that Philadelphia's vital role as a war production center was thoroughly appreciated here.

## MUST LIMIT MATERIALS

But they also made it clear that the thousands of tons of critical materials needed to give the city waterworks improvements which would last for the next 20 years or more simply could not be spared.

"There is no doubt that Philadelphia's waterworks is in bad condition," one WPB official said. "Engineers report that those old steam pumps pound so hard they almost lift off the floor."

## NEESON DISPUTED

"But no city, so far as I know, has obtained anything like the amount of critical materials that Philadelphia is seeking. It just isn't available."

A charge made yesterday by Philadelphia Director of Public Works John H. Neeson that "certain people" could have obtained new electric water pumps for the city had he gone to them instead of basing the city's case "upon merit" was dismissed with an assertion "merit is absolutely the only basis on which these things are decided."

# Only One Firm Bids On Water Works

An invitation by the Department of Public Works for bids for construction of a new pumping station at Torresdale produced only one offer yesterday—a bid of \$1,088,888 from the Kaufman Construction Co., 1505 Race st.

The proposed contract would cover construction of a building to house the station, piping, valves and other accessories. Failure of the city to obtain higher priority ratings than the A-1-A and A-1-J ratings granted for necessary materials was blamed for the reluctance of other contractors to bid.

John H. Neeson, Director of Public Works, did not announce what action will be taken on the Kaufman bid, pending detailed study of the offer. The department is still studying bids received last week for a new preliminary treatment plant at Queen Lane pump station. The bids ranged from \$285,452.

# Final Plea Today On Water Repairs

Municipal engineers will make a final plea to the War Production Board for approval of at least partial rehabilitation of Philadelphia's water system when conferences start here today between representatives of the WPB and the Department of Public Works.

Arthur E. Gorman, chief of the Water Section of WPB, is to re-inspect the city's water distribution system today and tomorrow. He and other WPB officials also will confer with Seth Van Loan, chief of the Water Bureau, and John H. Neeson, Director of Public Works.

# Water Main Break Ignored by Bureau

Water spurting from a break in an eight-inch main had formed a small geyser in the pavement in front of 2833 Huntingdon st. since Sunday, but despite complaints the Bureau of Water had sent no one to inspect the wastage up to last night, residents said.

A break in the asphalt pavement across the street from the main break has developed also, and home owners in the vicinity expressed fear that the entire street at that point was being undermined.

The new Victory Loan gives your investments a chance to fight. Invest in the Treasury Securities, the Victory Loan a suc

# WPB MAN TO STUDY WATER SYSTEM

**BULLETIN** 10-8-42  
His Checkup will Guide U. S. in Determining City's Needs 21

(By a Bulletin Staff Correspondent)

Washington, Dec. 8.—Arthur E. Gorman, chief of the Water Section of WPB, will go to Philadelphia tomorrow for a two-day inspection of the city's chlorinating system, and for a final appraisal of Philadelphia's needs for WPB assistance in the rehabilitation of its water plant.

WPB sources said today that Gorman's checkup on the spot would be followed, probably by the end of the week, by his specific recommendations on Director of Public Works Neeson's application for WPB priorities assistance.

Final decision is expected to be made by Herbert S. Marks, acting chief of WPB's power branch.

Although Neeson's original application called for 15 new electrical pumps, WPB engineers have signified that they are in favor of patching up equipment now in use to a point that will carry Philadelphia through the war.

In the light of its inability to supply the new pumps for which Neeson first applied, WPB requested him to furnish an alternate precise estimate of just what Philadelphia must have in the way of material and parts to put its failing pumps in sturdy working order. Gorman indicated that no help could be given the city until Neeson conformed with this request.

The \$18,000,000 rehabilitation program which had been planned for Philadelphia's water system is now seen as necessarily shelved for the duration of the war, the 15 new electrical pumps which were to have been a part of it having been tentatively allocated by WPB to other communities.

# WPB Should Act on Water System

Reports from Washington that the War Production Board may, after all, grant this city priorities for the modernization of part of the water system are encouraging—if true. The in-and-out tactics of the WPB on this issue have been so confusing that absolute dependence on the latest rumors is out of the question.

The city has been trying for months on end to install badly needed pumps. Every time it has seemed to approach some successful conclusion in its negotiations a last-minute hitch has developed.

The Philadelphia water supply has a special importance because of the many war industries here. Even a Washington bureaucrat ought to be able to foresee the consequences should the system break down. Perhaps the WPB is finally becoming aware of the merits of the long-delayed rehabilitation project.

Meanwhile, however, we shall keep our fingers crossed.

# WPB TO REINSPECT WATER SETUP HERE

**BULLETIN** 12-9-42  
Priorities to Depend on Checkup of Facilities Starting Today

The extent to which Philadelphia will be permitted to rehabilitate its water supply system will be determined by a further inspection of the system to be begun today by Arthur F. Gorman, chief of the War Production Board's water section.

What priorities the city will receive for the work depend upon the recommendations he makes to Herbert S. Marks, director of the WPB power division, which includes the water section.

In Washington, Marks stated that he believes Gorman's inspection will "clear the air," and a decision could be expected by the end of the week. While in Philadelphia, Gorman will confer with Director of Public Works John H. Neeson and Seth Van Loan, chief of the Water Bureau.

Marks announced that Gorman would give particular attention to the chlorinating plants to ascertain what repairs may be required to keep them functioning for the duration and also will inspect pumping stations.

Neeson's request for release of 15 new pumps already on order is still before the WPB, which previously indicated that no more than two of them would be authorized for Philadelphia, with the rest to go to other localities.

# Another Water Works Inspection

If the city treasury had a dollar for each time the water system has been subjected to an official inspection, Philadelphia would have been out of the financial woods long ago.

This remark is prompted by the announcement that once again, for the umpteenth time, our water plants, or what is left of them, are to be given the once-over, this time by a gentleman from Washington sporting the title of chief of the War Production Board's water section.

The official, presumably, is to determine whether the city actually needs the new equipment it has been trying to get for the pumping stations and report on his findings to another official. What will happen after that is anybody's guess. For many months the city has been getting nothing but the run-around on its application for water plant materials.

If the latest inspector takes a good look at our run-down system and then figures out for himself what the consequences of a breakdown would be in a city turning out billions of dollars' worth of war materials, he should rush back to Washington with a frantic signal for approval of our application.

# 'MAGIC FORMULA' TO CUT WAGE TAX RUNS INTO SNAGS

**RECORD** 12-1-42  
'Surplus' Becomes Deficit and May Hold Up 1943 Budget.

By LEEDS MOBERLEY

The Republican Organization's "magic formula" for cutting the 1½ percent wage tax to 1 percent ran into difficulties yesterday.

The resulting mixup threatened to delay enactment of the 1943 city-county budget beyond the December 15 deadline for the first time in four years.

Everything seemed to go wrong when City Council, sitting as Committee of the Whole, started to hack at assorted items to effect the "economies" necessary for a one-third reduction in the wage tax.

## Margin Apparent.

Cuts originally planned came to \$1,640,000, enough to bring the budget into balance with anticipated 1943 income, with \$192,041 to spare.

So nobody felt disturbed when Director of Public Works John H. Neeson counseled against taking away the entire \$450,000 unexpended balance of this year's \$500,000 sewer appropriation. He said it probably would be safe to take \$300,000, because priorities would prevent much sewer construction.

That cut the planned budget surplus to \$42,041—and then the trouble began.

## Snag on WPA Funds.

The program as set forth by Councilman L. Wallace Egan, GOP organization spokesman, included transfer of \$300,000 from the unexpended balance of the city's WPA funds. Egan said the balance was about \$650,000. Neeson said his latest information was that all but \$6000 was allocated to specific projects.

Appalled, the Councilmen hurriedly checked with the Controller's office and ascertained that although there was an unexpended balance of \$384,000, most of that was committed.

So Neeson was told to find out how much of the encumbered funds can be freed. He is to report Thursday morning—which means the clerical and printing work on the finished budget ordinance may be held up so long it will be impossible to complete legislative action by December 15.

## Malone Upsets Cart.

Meanwhile, Director of Public Safety James H. Malone struck another blow at the "magic formula" when he objected to the plan to short-change the police and fire payrolls.

Egan proposed to take \$280,000 out of the police payroll and \$160,000 out of the firemen's item, to offset "turnover" of personnel—recurring vacancies, suspensions and so on. Malone said he'd "like to go along with City Council because you've always gone along with me."

"If you have to save money," he said, "I'll try to help, but if you reduce these appropriations that much I'll have to keep a certain number of vacancies. I'd suggest a safe turnover allowance would be \$150,000 in the police item and \$100,000 in the firemen."

## Surplus Into Deficit.

That meant a further reduction of \$190,000 in Council's "savings" and turned the \$42,041 "surplus" into an undeniable \$147,959 deficit which may grow into a \$447,959 unless some of the WPA can be retrieved. Councilman William M. Holm observed, "That makes an in our boat."

# Another Headache.

The budget, \$88,359,187.76 in semifinal form, may be thrown further out of line by the water system problem. Neeson reported that if the WPB finally decides the \$18,000,000 modernization program must wait until the end of the war \$256,857 will be required for repairs to the present equipment.

He also asked \$250,000 to clean out the Torresdale sedimentation basin, which—having been neglected for 37 years—has accumulated so much muck that its capacity is reduced by 30 percent.

## Pay Increases Voted.

Pay increases were voted to city and county employees—not only the \$2500-a-year-and-under group who received bonuses this year—but also those earning up to \$4999. Furthermore, it was decided to drop the bonus system entirely and incorporate all increases in the basic wage rates.

Under this setup the pay of every employee in the \$700 to \$3499 wage bracket—comprising all but a comparative handful of the approximately 20,000 municipal workers—is increased \$400 a year.

The base pay of policemen and

firemen goes up from the present \$2190 to \$2590 a year.

The new scale of increases, which cost \$3,837,000 in addition to this year's increases:

Old Annual pay.	Inc.
Up to \$500	\$200
\$500 to \$600	\$250
\$600 to \$700	\$300
\$700 to \$3499	\$400
\$3500 to \$3999	\$300
\$4000 to \$4499	\$250
\$4500 to \$4999	\$200

## Pension Fund Cut.

Council began its day's deliberations by cutting \$150,000 off the \$975,000 tentative appropriation for the Municipal Pension Fund. This was at the request of the Pension Fund Board, in anticipation that employees' payments would rise.

Council's job is to fit the budget into anticipated 1943 receipts that shrink to \$81,816,388.96 with the one-third cut in the wage tax. That takes into account Receiver of Taxes David W. Harris' revised, super-optimistic estimates.

The budget, after all the cuts made yesterday, amounts to \$88,359,187.76. The gaps will be nar-

rowed by the \$4,744,839.77 estimated net surplus, plus \$600,000 in merging balances—the unexpended portions of assorted items that go into the general fund after December 31—and whatever other "surpluses" and "economies" Council can find.

## Among "Economies."

The latter category includes the \$300,000 to be taken out of the 1942 sewer item, \$250,000 earmarked for highway improvements in South Philadelphia which have been frozen by war conditions and \$200,000 set aside toward land acquisition costs of the new Northeast Airport. condemnation proceedings to establish the cost of the land probably will not be completed for another year.

All that narrows the spread to \$147,959—or maybe it will be \$447,959, depending on what can be done with the WPA money. But in any event the budget is still in the red, and there do not seem to be many more rabbits left in the hat.

# PLANS NEW STUDY OF WATER PLANT

**RECORD** 12-7-42  
WPB Official Arrives Today to Discuss Need of Repair Parts. 24

Record's Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—Arthur F. Gorman, chief of the War Production Board's water section, will be in Philadelphia tomorrow for a further inspection of the city's water system.

Herbert S. Marks, director of the WPB power division (which includes the water section), announced today Gorman would give particular attention to the chlorinating plants to ascertain what repairs may be required to keep them functioning for the duration of the war.

## Wants More Information.

Gorman also will inspect pumping stations to gather additional information on priority requirements. Marks said Director of Public Works John H. Neeson has answered WPB's request for additional information on the need for new pumping stations, but that the information was incomplete.

Neeson's request for the release of 15 new pumps already on order is still before the WPB, but officials have let it be known that no more than two of them will be authorized. The others will be diverted to localities where the need is considered by WPB to be even greater.

## Will OK Repair Parts.

However, WPB undoubtedly will grant priorities for materials necessary to rehabilitate present equipment—provided the city agrees to keep it in good repair from now on.

Marks, who has the final say on how much new equipment will be approved, said he believed Gorman's personal inspection would "clear the air" and that a decision could be expected by the end of the week.

The Committee of Seventy protested yesterday against the plan to dip into the \$18,000,000 water loan for emergency repairs designed to keep the system in operation for the duration.

Percy H. Clark, chairman of the Seventy's committee on finances, said in a letter to Frederic D. Garman, acting president of City Council, that such work "is strictly maintenance" and that the late Mayor Lambertson "pointed out that it would be illegal to follow this practice."

The plan, if the War Production Board orders the \$18,000,000 rehabilitation program deferred until after the war, is to tap the loan fund for about \$500,000.

# NEESON TO CONFER WITH WPB MONDAY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Herbert S. Marks, chief of the War Production Board power division, announced today that Philadelphia Public Works Director John H. Neeson has accepted an invitation to confer with WPB power officials here next Monday on the city's water works problems. Marks said he hopes the conference "will clear up the long questions on Philadelphia's minimum priority requirement to put its water system in a satisfactory working condition."



INQUIRER  
**Council Starts Paring To Fit Budget to Tax Cut**

**\$2,000,000**  
**Must Be Trimmed**

City Council yesterday began the job of trimming some \$2,000,000 from municipal expenditures next year to fit the 1943 budget to the one-half of one percent cut it has already agreed to make in the wage tax.

The wage cut, which will reduce the pay envelope levy to 1 percent, will necessitate slashing \$2,047,959 from the budget as tentatively approved last week, Council was told by Councilman L. Wallace Egan.

**\$4,744,839 SURPLUS**

The preliminary budget figures are \$6,792,798 above the estimated revenue for next year, Egan said, but the city will have a surplus of about \$4,744,839 by the end of this year to apply toward 1943 expenses.

He suggested that the remaining \$2,047,959 be made up as follows:

Return \$600,000 to the general fund from unexpended balances now held by various city bureaus.

Cut \$280,000 from the police payroll and \$160,000 from the firemen's payroll to provide for normal labor turnovers in both bureaus.

**SLASH OF AIRPORT ITEMS**

Cut \$450,000 from proposed expenditures for sewer extensions.

Cut \$450,000 from items for improvements and damage claims at the Municipal and Northeast Airports.

Reduce proposed WPA expenditures by \$300,000.

At the same time, Council was warned by Director of Public Works John H. Neeson that it must put up \$256,857 of its own money for repairs to the water system unless the Federal Government approves its \$18,000,000 rehabilitation program.

**\$500,000 REQUIRED**

If the War Production Board disapproves the rehabilitation program, as Federal officials have predicted unofficially, the city will have to spend \$146,000 for materials and \$110,000 for labor to "patch up" the water system, Neeson said. In addition, he asked \$250,000 to clean the sedimentation basin at the Torresdale pumping station.

Council discussed the possibility of applying some of the \$18,000,000, which was borrowed with approval of the voters two years ago, toward the repairs, but Assistant City Solicitor Herman N. Schwartz said the use of the fund might be illegal for anything but permanent improvements. Council will hold further conferences to settle the question.

**FACES DIFFICULTIES**

The Councilmen encountered new difficulties as soon as they began studying Egan's proposed economies. At the request of Director of Public Safety James H. Malone, they reduced the savings in the police and fire payrolls from \$280,000 and \$160,000 to \$150,000 and \$100,000, respectively.

They also cut the sewer saving from \$450,000 to \$300,000, when Neeson warned that additional sewer construction might become necessary next year.

**PENSION PAYMENT CUT**

At the beginning of the session, Council cut the 1943 pension fund payment from \$975,000 to \$825,000. The saving was made possible, according to City Treasurer Edgar W. Baird, largely because employees' payments toward the fund will increase next year because of salary raises.

The wage increases for city and county workers, already fixed at an additional \$200 for workers receiving up to \$2500, will also apply to those earning between \$2501 and \$3499. Council also approved \$300 increases for those between \$3500 and \$3999; \$250 for those between \$4000 and \$4499, and \$200 for those between \$4500 and \$4999. All increases were made part of the basic salaries, instead of temporary bonuses.

INQUIRER  
**WPB Aides End Water Study Here**

Officials of the War Production Board yesterday completed a three-day inspection of Philadelphia's water system and returned to Washington to submit a report which will determine to what extent the city can rehabilitate its water treatment and distribution plants.

Director of Public Works John H. Neeson, who has been trying for months to obtain Government approval of all or part of the city's proposed \$18,000,000 water rehabilitation program, said he thought the latest conferences had made progress "toward a solution of the problem."

**U. S. AIDES SILENT**

The Federal officials, however, maintained a sphinx-like silence. They are Arthur E. Gorman, chief of the Water Production Section of WPB's Power Division, and W. D. Williams, an assistant.

The entire \$18,000,000 program, involving a complete overhaul of the water system, has already been rejected by WPB, according to unofficial reports. Gorman and Williams made their inspections—the latest of many—to determine whether materials could be allocated to Philadelphia for vital piecemeal improvements.

**FEELS "ENCOURAGED"**

"The Federal men inspected the chlorination and filtration plants, pumping stations, water main extensions and the whole distribution system generally," Neeson said.

"I feel encouraged, because I believe we made considerable progress in arriving at basic conclusions on emergency war-time conditions. Mr. Gorman has a thorough understanding of our problem."

Gorman's report will be submitted to Herbert S. Marks, director of the WPB Power Division, and Neeson said he believed a final decision will be reached within two weeks.

**COUNCIL BOOSTS CITY-COUNTY PAY BY \$4,729,500**

**Budget, \$6,358,318 Short, and Yule Bonuses Aid Income of 19,000.**

City Council voted \$4,729,500 in pay increases yesterday for the 19,000-odd city and county employees.

First it enacted the \$88,174,707 budget for 1943, which boosts the pay of everybody earning less than \$5000 a year—at a total cost of \$3,737,000.

**Approves Christmas Bonus.**

Then it passed an ordinance giving \$992,500 in year-end bonuses—payable before Christmas—to employees whose basic pay is now \$2500 or less. Most of the beneficiaries will receive \$50; the comparative handful earning less than \$700 a year will get smaller sums down to \$25.

Acting Mayor Bernard Samuel signed both measures promptly.

The budget, enacted just one day in advance of the legal deadline, is temporarily \$6,358,318 short. The estimates of collections from all sources in 1943 total only \$81,816,389. Since income and outgo must balance to the penny in the budget ordinance, the budget as passed ostensibly totals only \$81,816,389 too.

**Cut Police and Firemen.**

The reduction was effected by arbitrarily cutting the police payroll item by \$4,266,318 and the firemen's payroll by \$2,092,000, in anticipation that merging balances and the 1942 surplus which becomes available after the first of the year will be sufficient to make up the shortages.

With the police and fire appropriations restored, the Department of Public Safety payrolls will come to \$19,606,295—by all odds the largest of any city or county department and only about \$3,000,000 less than those of all the other departments combined.

The \$3,737,000 in pay increases represents a doubling of the "additional compensation" provided this year for employees earning \$2500 and less, plus newly-voted benefits for the group receiving between \$2500 and \$4999. The bonus system is being discarded, however, and the increases have now been added onto the basic scales.

**How Pay Boosts Work.**

The basic pay of employees earning \$500 or less is raised by \$200 in the new budget; that of persons earning \$500 to \$600 is upped \$250; salaries and wages between \$600 and \$700 are raised \$300; those between \$700 and \$3499 are increased \$400; those between \$3500 and \$3999 are increased \$300; those between \$4000 and \$4499 are raised \$250, and those between \$4500 and \$4999 get a \$200 increase.

The new pay scales, together with a copy of the ordinance providing the Christmas bonus, now must be submitted to the National War Labor Board, but it is not necessary to await the board's approval before paying out the money.

**Steps Against Fire Hazard.**

Council's Committee on Public Health yesterday approved two ordinances designed to eliminate the dimout hazard of night-time fires on dumps. The measures, covering private operations, come up for final passage Thursday. City-owned dumps will conform.

Violations of either ordinances subject the offenders to fines ranging from \$25 to \$100—or up to 30 days in jail if the fine is not paid within 10 days.

The committee also approved an ordinance to force the demolition of fat rendering plants—a direct result of the three-year fight of Richmond resident against the Keystone Rendering Company, Pacific and Bath.

The measure does not apply to establishments rendering fats for human consumption. Fines and license revocation are prescribed for offenders.

Council's Finance Committee approved a bill sent up by Acting Mayor Samuel setting up the machinery for deduction of the 5 percent "Victory" tax from city and county pay checks beginning next month.

**PHILA. WATER NEEDS SURVEYED BY WPB**

INQUIRER-12-10-42

Arthur F. Gorman, chief of the water section of the War Production Board, yesterday inspected the city's filtration plants and reservoirs to determine whether Philadelphia would be permitted to extend its chlorination facilities as a partial substitute for a complete overhauling of the system.

He visited several plants, accompanied by engineers of the Bureau of Water, and later conferred with Director of Public Works John H. Neeson. He will complete his inspections today.

**PROGRAM MAY BE DEFERRED**

The city's proposed \$18,000,000 water rehabilitation program has apparently been disapproved by Federal officials, but Neeson explained that chlorination facilities should be replaced or extended if the rest of the program must be postponed for the duration.

The "makeshift," he said, does not contemplate increasing the dosage of chlorine in water, but rather improvement of methods of making water potable. Neither city nor Federal officials would comment upon the possible outcome of Gorman's inspection, the latest of many made by WPB representatives.

**City Plans Start Of Water Project**

Director of Public Works John H. Neeson said yesterday rehabilitation of the city's water system would be started almost immediately with resumption of work on five pumps—three for the Torresdale station and two for Lardner's Point.

Of the 756 hydrants allotted the city by the War Production Board, Neeson said, 276 will be delivered at once. Under the Federal action permitting a curtailed program, the city will spend about \$1,500,000 on the project, which originally called for expenditure of \$8,000,000.

**Five Pumps OK'd For Water Works**

[Continued From First Page]

tract, where the new Budd bomber plant is being built.

**Two at Lardner's Point.**

2. Lardner's Point pumping station: Installation in a temporary station now under construction of two new motor-driven centrifugal pumps, each of 25,000, 000-gallon-a-day, rated capacity. Approval of this installation will be subject to the provision that the city agree to rehabilitate during the next six to nine months all of the present steam-driven pumps, boilers and auxiliaries.

3. Chlorinators: Installation of three new high-capacity chlorinators, with accessories, at the Torresdale filter plant. Approval of this installation is subject to the provision that the city will agree to rehabilitate the existing 25 solution feed chlorinators now located at various stations and to relocate them at filter plants and open reservoirs in the system to meet requirements of the State Department of Public Health.

**Extension of Mains.**

4. Water Mains: Port Richmond District extension, 4130 feet of 12-inch-diameter cast-iron pipe and 290 feet of 8-inch-diameter cast-iron pipe. Roxborough reinforcing main, 1000 feet 24-inch-diameter cast-iron pipe. The Girard and booster district main, 1000 feet of 36-inch-diameter cast-iron pipe.

5. Fire Hydrants: Replacement of 756 damaged fire hydrants of obsolete types for which repair parts cannot be obtained. The first installation of these hydrants will be in sections where fire risks to war industries are greatest.

**Short of Demands.**

WPB's recommendations fall far short of Neeson's original demands last spring for authorization to proceed with the entire \$18,000,000 water rehabilitation program approved by Philadelphia voters at a referendum at the spring primary of 1940.

Later he asked permission to buy 15 new pumps already on order.

**WPB Approves Water Repairs**

**City to Get New Pumps, Hydrants**

A program providing for the immediate expenditure of \$1,500,000 on repairs and improvements to Philadelphia's water system was approved yesterday by the War Production Board.

The approval followed a conference in Washington between John H. Neeson, the city's Director of Public Works, and Herbert S. Marks, acting director of the WPB Power Division.

**PLAN NEW HYDRANTS**

The program was described as a "minimum program," and provision was made for additional repairs and improvements when they become necessary in the future.

Improvements are a tentative plan on the projected \$18,000,000 water rehabilitation program.

Important in the improvements is the installation of 756 new hydrants to replace damaged obsolete hydrants. The first allocations will be made in sections where fire risks to war industries are greatest. Under one contract the city will receive 276 hydrants immediately, and under another 480 at the rate of 80 a month.

**3 PUMPS SCHEDULED**

Other provisions are:

One pump with a capacity of 6,000,000 gallons a day and two with capacities of 3,000,000 a day each will be installed in a temporary building at the Torresdale Pumping Station. These pumps will reinforce service in the area where the new Budd aircraft plant is being built.

**CITY TO GET PIPE**

At Lardner's Point, two new motor-driven pumps, each with a capacity of 25,000,000 gallons a day, will be installed in a temporary station now under construction. This installation is conditional on the city's promise to rehabilitate during the next six to nine months all of its present steam-driven pumps, boilers and auxiliaries.

The WPB also approved delivery to the city of 4130 feet of 12-inch pipe and 290 feet of 8-inch pipe to be used in Port Richmond; 1000 feet of 24-inch pipe to be used in Roxborough, and 1000 feet of 36-inch pipe to be used at the Girard Booster District Station.

**WPB Approves 5 Pumps For City's Water System**

**Agency Recommends High Priorities for Equipment; Three High-Capacity Chlorinators and Pipe for Mains Also Okayed.**

Record's Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Philadelphia's antiquated water system will receive a temporary "shot in the arm" as the result of an agreement here today by city officials and WPB engineers.

Under the agreement, WPB's Power Division will recommend that the city be permitted to purchase approximately \$1,250,000 of new equipment, even though this diverts critical materials from projects contributing directly to the war effort.

**City to Spend \$280,000.**

The city, for its part, promises to spend about \$280,000 rehabilitating existing machinery and equipment.

Both Philadelphia Public Works Director John H. Neeson and Herbert F. Marks, acting director of WPB's power division, emphasized that the improvements are designed primarily to prevent a breakdown of the city's water system, with a resultant slowing or halting of war production.

**Minimum Program.**

"We all realize this is a minimum program," Marks told reporters after a conference with Neeson and his engineers. "It does not mean the seriousness of the situation in Philadelphia will be corrected immediately."

Neeson expressed doubt that the program "would see us through the war."

However, he pointed out that the expenditure authorized today is in addition to a \$3,000,000 program which has been underway for 14 months.

**List of Equipment.**

New equipment, for which high priorities are recommended, will consist of:

1. Torresdale pumping station: Installation in a temporary building of three new motor-driven centrifugal high-service pumps, with auxiliaries. Two of the pumps will have a rated capacity of 3,000,000 gallons a day, and the other a rated capacity of 6,000,000 gallons a day. These pumps will reinforce service in the Torresdale high service district.

Continued on Page 8, Column 1.



# Coal Silt in River Perils Phila. War Production, House Hearing Told

Unless some remedial action is taken to stop the dumping of anthracite into the Schuylkill by its citizens and huge war industries...

HARRISBURG, March 30.—taken to stop the dumping of anthracite producers, Philadelphia faces "certain catastrophe," the House committee on Public Health and Sanitation was told today.

At the same time, the legislators were warned that unless the State makes such a move soon the Federal Government might intervene and prosecute the coal producers.

## PORT BRUNNER BILL

Arranged in support of the Brunner bill, subject of the committee hearing, were representatives of Philadelphia, nearby communities, the Schuylkill River Valley Restoration Association, and the U. S. Army Engineers' Philadelphia District office. Opposing the measure, which would prevent the silt dumping except on the State's Pure Streams Law, were spokesmen for coal producers and the United Mine Workers.

## SITUATION 'CRITICAL'

Robert McCay Green, Philadelphia's City Solicitor; John H. Neeson, Director of Public Works, and Dr. John Laird, of the City Health Department, described the "critical situation" facing the city's water supply because of continued silt, culm dumping and sedimentation. "This is a serious matter," Green commented. "The operators have been given enough time to correct a situation which they have brought about."

## INTOLERABLE CONDITION

"This condition is intolerable," he asserted, "and it is being accelerated each day and each week." Dr. Laird said that complete clogging of the intake stations "might force people to go down to the river with buckets for their water and result in the worst typhoid epidemic the country has ever known."

Colonel H. B. Vaughn, Jr., of the U. S. Engineers' District office, voiced the threat of Federal intervention and action against coal operators, "who continue to flout the law."

## AGAINST COURT ACTION

"We have no desire to take court action and would prefer that the matter be settled within the State," Judge Grover C. Ladner, of Philadelphia, president of the Schuylkill River Valley Restoration Association, said that if the coal producers would do what they say can be done—remove 80 percent of the silt—everyone would be satisfied.

Shutdown of the water supply would cause workers to leave the city."

He cited the fact that in 1907 when the menace of continued silt dumping became apparent coal producers promised "they would take care of this evil."

Green also noted that coal producers admit they are clogging the streams with coal waste.

## HEALTH ENDANGERED

Neeson declared that "defense plants and the health of our people" are endangered by the sedimentation which threatens to block the city's three water intake stations.

At the Queen Lane pumping station he said, 47 percent of the capacity of the basin has been restricted by sludge and sediment. At the Belmont plant, 10 percent of capacity is being lost, and at Roxborough 46 percent is restricted.

HUR DAY, MARCH 11, 1943

## NEESON OPPOSES CANAL IN JERSEY

Turner Also Protests Salt Would Menace City's Drinking Water.

WASHINGTON, March 10.—The city of Philadelphia today officially opposed construction of a ship canal linking Raritan Bay to the Delaware River near Bordentown, N. J.

Would Cost \$187,000,000.

In a letter to the House Rivers and Harbors Committee, John H. Neeson, Philadelphia Public Works Director, said he believed the canal would result in sea water flowing into the Delaware River, menacing the city's water supply. Raritan Bay is an arm of New York Bay.

Opposition to the construction also was expressed by Representative Ellwood J. Turner (R., Pa.), chairman of the Rivers and Harbors Committee which is considering a bill on the canal, construction of which would cost \$187,000,000.

Only Missing Link.

Said Turner's statement: "Whether the proposed canal, as is claimed, can be constructed and operated so as to prevent admission of salt water into the Delaware River is highly questionable. As far as we know, no method has operated successfully in this respect for a canal of the type and size under consideration."

The proposed canal is the only missing link in an inland, protected waterway from Boston to Jacksonville. The missing section is 30 miles long.

## Council Gets Bill For Water Pipes

An ordinance authorizing the laying of additional water pipes in South Philadelphia to provide more fire protection for war plants, including the Navy Yard, was sent to City Council yesterday by Mayor Samuel.

The pipes are to be laid in Schuylkill ave. from Passunk ave. to Lanier ave.; in Lanier ave. from Schuylkill ave. to Penrose ave.; and in 26th st. from Passunk ave. to Penrose ave. Additionally, the ordinance provides for laying new water pipes in the Northeast, from Summerdale ave. from Wakeling st. to Foulkrod, and in Bridge st. from Castor ave. to Roosevelt boulevard.

EDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1943

## SCHUYLKILL SILT CALLED MENACE BY CITY OFFICIALS

Endangers Health and War Industries, They Tell Legislators.

Record's Harrisburg Bureau HARRISBURG, March 30.—The silt-clogged Schuylkill is a menace to public health in Philadelphia.

It also presents an ever-present threat to continued operation of the city's war industries.

City officials, so advised the House Committee on Public Health and Sanitation at a public hearing on the Brunner bill which would prohibit the dumping of silt and culm into any stream in Pennsylvania.

Neeson Warns of Danger.

Director of Public Works John H. Neeson warned that Philadelphia will suffer a catastrophe if any of the city pumping stations along the Schuylkill is forced to close because of the accumulation of "slush" at the intakes and in sedimentation basins.

Dr. Robert L. Laird, chief of the Department of Health's division of laboratories, predicted that a breakdown in the city's water supply system would bring about "one of the worst typhoid fever epidemics this country has ever known."

City Solicitor Robert M. Green charged that the dangerous condition of the river is due to the failure of the State Sanitary Water Board to enforce discretionary power given it by the 1937 pure streams act to force anthracite operators to discontinue clogging up the stream and refuse from the mines.

## Dredging a Mere Gesture

"What dredging to the Schuylkill we have been able to do in conjunction with WPA is nothing more than a pathetic gesture. We have to keep a dredge in constant operation at the Belmont intake alone."

"The silt has killed the Schuylkill River in Fairmount Park for recreation purposes. It has sealed up the clubs along Boathouse Row and the famous American Henley rowing course. Within a few months islands will appear and soon be covered with vegetable growth resembling jungles."

John C. Nagle, chief air raid warden, zone 31, submitted voluminous data to the committee in support of the bill in the interest of health and sanitation, the war effort and fire protection.

## Coal Operator Objects.

Evan Evans Lansford, vice president of the Lehigh Navigation Coal Company, was the spokesman for the hard coal operators. Passage of the Brunner bill, he complained, "will make it impossible for us to operate at all."

He estimated that it would cost about \$10,000,000 in the next 20 years to improve and perfect present methods of preventing siltation of the Schuylkill and its tributaries. He revealed that his own company plans to spend at least \$1,000,000 for plants which will utilize newly-perfected processes for which there is a growing market.

U. S. May Intervene.

Colonel H. B. Vaughn, Jr., U. S. Army engineer in charge of the Philadelphia district, declared that if the State does not take steps to correct conditions, the Government may be compelled to intervene, to insure uninterrupted operation of war industries along the lower Schuylkill.

Principal opposition to the bill came from the anthracite industry and the United Mine Workers of America.

Orphans Court Judge Grover C. Ladner, the State's outstanding leader in the fight for pure streams, used the opponents' own arguments to support the bill. He said that if the operators would reduce pollution by 80 percent—as they claimed they could do—the problem would be solved.

## Affects Three Pumping Stations.

Director Neeson described the precarious position of the city's pumping stations along the river. The Queen la. station's capacity has been cut down by 47 percent, he said; the Roxborough station by 15 percent and Belmont by 10 percent.

He estimated that it would cost the city at \$1,250,000 to clean up the three stations.

"It is necessary for us to spend \$75,000 more than would normally be required to treat the water with chemicals to make it safe for the people to drink," the director said.

## OTHERS SUPPORT BILL

Others who supported the Brunner bill were Mrs. Nelson Ogden, of the Philadelphia Civic Club; Ralph Sparo, of the Pottstown Chamber of Commerce; Norman G. Young, borough manager of Phoenixville, and Julian W. Barnard, borough solicitor of Norristown.

The principal spokesmen for the opponents was Evan Evans, vice president and general manager of the Lehigh Navigation Coal Company, Inc., who represented the anthracite industry.

## SOLUTION SOUGHT

He testified that progressive coal producers were attempting to solve the problem as rapidly as possible and intimated that operators are considering a 20-year, \$10,000,000 program of silt elimination.

Evans said the anthracite operators were sympathetic to the public interest with respect to the problem of stream pollution and have taken steps "to remedy the conditions for which coal operations have been held largely responsible."

No practical method of eliminating silt discharges has been discovered, Evans said, adding that "for over 100 years the discharge of some of the mine refuse into the streams has been a factor of economy in producing coal."

## WATER MAIN PROJECTS PUSHED BY MAYOR

He Seeks Approval for Work in two Sections of City

Approval of projects to install water mains in south and northeast Philadelphia under the \$18,000,000 water rehabilitation program has been sought by Mayor Samuel from City Council.

One project, outlined before Council at its meeting yesterday, calls for the laying of pipes in Schuylkill av. from a point south of Passunk av. to Lanier av.; in Lanier av. from Schuylkill av. to Penrose av.; and in 26th st. from Passunk av. to Penrose av.

This will provide additional fire protection to war plants, including the Philadelphia Navy Yard, Council was told.

Water pipe is also to be laid in Summerdale st. from Wakeling st. to a point near Foulkrod st. and in Bridge st. from Castor av. to Roosevelt boulevard.

Because of Holy Week, Council voted to dispense with its scheduled meeting next Thursday.

## JERSEY SHIP CANAL BACKED AT HEARING

House Group Told Project Would Aid Phila. Area Industry

Inquirer Washington Bureau WASHINGTON, March 11.—Even if a proposed ship canal across New Jersey cannot be completed before the present war ends, its construction should be authorized now to assure an inland route safe from enemy submarines if the United States should become involved in a third world war, the House Rivers and Harbors Committee was told today.

The plea was made by Jacob M. Klein, counsel for the Port Raritan District Commission, who declared that arguments that the canal would pour salt water into the Delaware River and thereby endanger Philadelphia's water supply were "so much bunk."

Former Mayor J. Hampton Moore, of Philadelphia, president of the Atlantic Deepwater Waterways Association, declared the canal would not only be a great wartime transportation boon, but would also bring about a "tremendous increase in industry and commerce" in the Philadelphia-Camden area by linking the ports of Philadelphia and New York through a direct water route.

## Asking Too Much

PHILADELPHIA is not unmindful of the necessity for wholehearted co-operation with the rest of the country for the winning of the war. It is willing to make whatever sacrifices may be required to that end.

But the Director of the Office of War Utilities doesn't see the whole picture in correct perspective when he asks this city to give up the new pumps under construction for its water supply system, and the motors necessary to drive them, to meet problematical conditions in Detroit.

Detroit is going to be hard-pressed for water during peak hours on peak days "if we should have a hot, dry summer." But Philadelphia is in danger of a water-supply breakdown at any time because of its antiquated and inadequate plant equipment. It's just a little too much to ask this city to yield the priority for which it fought so long and hard, and which was granted only because of proof that our own situation was critical, to meet a contingent condition elsewhere.

Director of Public Works NEESON points out that he has no legal authority to dispose of city property as requested. But Philadelphia is able to rest its case on firmer ground. This city is full of plants making war supplies—some of them operated by the Government—which would break down if the water supply should fail.

The Office of War Utilities request is unreasonable and does not correctly appraise the relative situations in Detroit and Philadelphia.

ARCH 11, 1943

## Congress Group Told N. J. Canal Is Threat To Phila. Water Supply

Inquirer Washington Bureau WASHINGTON, March 10.—Director of Public Works John H. Neeson, of Philadelphia, expressed fears today that a proposed ship canal across New Jersey would endanger Philadelphia's water supply by pouring salt water into the Delaware River.

Ellwood J. Turner, former Speaker of the Pennsylvania Senate and chairman of the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, went on record with similar misgivings, declaring it was "highly questionable" that admission of salt water into the river could be prevented if such a canal were dug.

## BILL PROPOSES CANAL

Statements by Neeson and Turner were placed in the record of the House Rivers and Harbors Committee during hearings on a bill to construct a \$187,000,000 ship canal linking the ports of New York and Philadelphia by an inland route, and thus completing the "missing link" in the inland waterway down the Atlantic coast.

The statements were given the committee by James H. Allen, a representative of the Interstate Commission. Allen said there was "no practical way to prevent the salinity

## \$104,000 ASKED FOR WATER MAINS

Service Designed to Improve Fire Protection for War Industries.

Acting Mayor Samuel asked City Council yesterday to authorize installation of water mains in Southwest Philadelphia in connection with the new access road to the Navy Yard at 26th st.

The work, to cost approximately \$104,000, is intended not only to extend water service in the area but also to improve fire protection for the war industries in that section. It will be part of

\$18,000,000 waterworks improvement program.

The ordinance calls for laying "water pipe and appurtenances" in Schuylkill ave., Lanier Penrose ave. and 26th st. Council voted to dispense with scheduled meeting next Thursday because of Holy Week.

## CITY WON'T YIELD WATER PUMPS TO DETROIT FOR U. S.

'Need Them Worse' Than Auto Center, WPB Aide Is Told.

Philadelphia rejected a Federal Government request yesterday to give up to Detroit four 40,000-gallon pumps needed for this city's water improvement program.

"We need them worse than Detroit," was the consensus of Acting Mayor Samuel, Public Works Director John H. Neeson and City Solicitor Robert M. Green in response to the request from J. A. Krug, director of the Office of War Utilities of the War Production Board.

## Lacks Legal Authority.

At the Acting Mayor's direction, Neeson telegraphed Krug: "I am advised that I have no legal authority to dispose of city property purchased with money specially appropriated by the people of Philadelphia for this specific purpose."

"Condition of our water supply system is becoming more critical daily due to greater demands by war industries, increased population and other factors."

## No Immediate Need.

According to a letter from Krug to Neeson, Detroit's water production facilities are presently adequate, but pumps and transmission facilities will not be sufficient for peak hours on peak days if a hot, dry summer follows.

Time is lacking to manufacture new pumping units for Detroit, Krug wrote, and Philadelphia would "make a real contribution toward the effective prosecution of the war" by giving up the pumps, now being completed, by a contracting company. Krug also asked for four 2000-horsepower motors now stored here for driving the pumps.

## Delivery Expected Soon.

The pumps, part of a \$137,636 contract for 10 pumps and six motor sets of various sizes, are 90 percent complete and expected here between June 15 and July 15. They are to be installed at

Lardner's Point Pumping Station as a beginning of the city's lagging \$18,000,000 water system rehabilitation program. Replacement would take at least a year, according to Neeson, and delay would endanger the city's production of war materials.

"It is vitally necessary," his telegram to Krug added, "that our application for needed priorities to complete the Lardner's Point project in its entirety be granted."



# Major Improvement Program for Philadelphia Water System is Under Way

*Phases Most Essential to War Effort Given Green Light by W. P. B.*

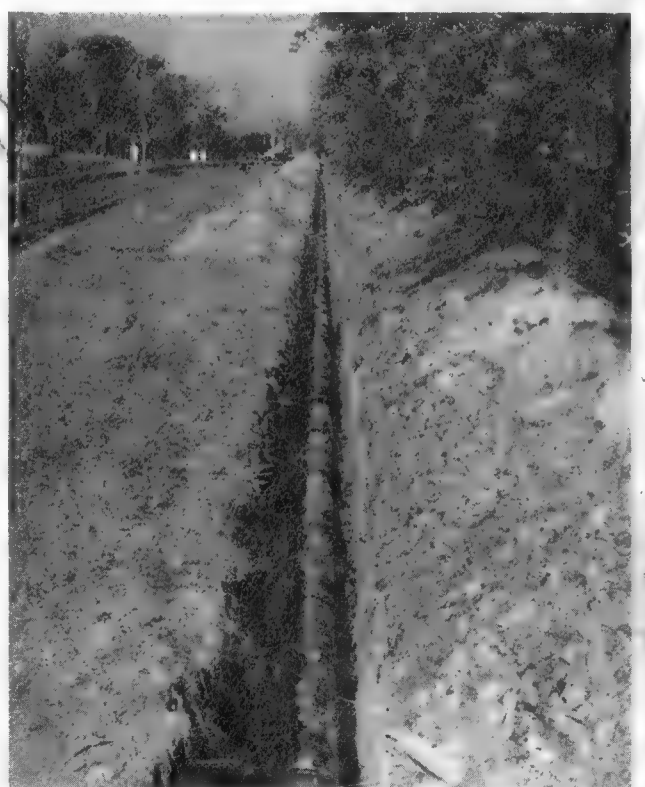


*16" Pipe Strung Out Along One of Main Traffic Arteries*

CITIES have a tendency to outgrow their utility facilities. The history of the water systems of the three largest cities in this country furnish substantiating evidence of this fact. New York's water problems were solved for many years in the future when the famed Croton Aqueduct was completed in 1842. Shortly after the turn of the century, it was indicated that provisions should be made for an additional supply, so the Catskill Aqueduct was built and put into service in 1917. Growth of the city with a corresponding increased demand for water made it advisable

to start construction of the Delaware Aqueduct, which will, when completed, bring about 500 M.G.D. from the East Branch of the Delaware River and its tributaries. Chicago's problem has been similar to New York's as far as the demand for more water is concerned. Since Chicago has long used Lake Michigan as its source of supply, it was not necessary to construct long lines from distant watershed to increase their supply. It involved the construction of more intake cribs in Lake Michigan with the necessary pumps, pipe and appurtenances to handle the

increased quantity of water. Philadelphia has two convenient sources of supply as it is situated along the Delaware River and has the Schuylkill River running through the city and joining the Delaware River within the city limits. Philadelphia's first water works was built along the Schuylkill River in 1799. Water was pumped from this station along Chestnut Street to a reservoir in Center Square from which it was distributed. In 1822 several thousand feet of 10-inch cast iron pipe were laid along lower Chestnut Street passing in front of Independence Hall. This line is still in service and is the oldest cast iron water pipe in this country. As the city grew and water demand increased, pump stations were built along both the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers. It is from these two rivers that Philadelphia obtains its



*Long Straight Run of 16" Super-deLavaud Pipe*



*Lowering Length of 16" Pipe Into Trench*

water today. With the increased growth of population and industrial activity along the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers above Philadelphia, the quality of the raw river water became increasingly worse. Cognizant of the quality of the present river water supplies, a commission was appointed in 1920 to study the advisability of continuing to use filtered water from these sources or develop an upland supply. Their recommendation was in favor of an upland supply, however, the recommendation was never carried out. There were two schools of thought about Philadelphia's future water supply problems, those who favored continued use of the existing sources with improved water treatment facilities and those who advocated a much purer and distant upland supply. Until this fundamental question was



settled, there was little incentive to expend large capital sums to improve existing supply and treatment facilities. As a result of a very thorough study and after careful consideration, the Mayor and City Council decided to submit a \$19,000,000 bond issue to the voters based on the continued use of present sources of supply and the improvement of the water quality by added treatment facilities. The bond issue was approved in the 1940 election. Thus the water supply question was definitely settled and funds were provided to proceed with this major rehabilitation and improvement program.

The program includes construction of facilities for double filtration at the purification plants. Steam pumping stations will be electrified and new stations built. Larger mains will be laid in districts where existing mains are too small. Feeder mains will be installed



12" Pipe Strung Out Along Line of Installation

to reinforce deficient sections of the gridiron. Extensions will be made to eliminate dead ends and supply newly built-up sections of the city.

Unfortunately, the normal time required to carry out this program coincided with our accelerated defense program of 1941 and our rapidly expanded war effort since December 7th of that year. The ability of manufacturers to make various types of needed equipment was no longer the controlling factor in how long it would take to complete a certain project. Materials needed were in many cases critical materials that required high priorities as a condition precedent to their procurement. As a result, some phases of the contemplated work have been completed, others are now under construction and some will have to be postponed until after the war.

(Concluded on Page 14)



12" Pipe Being Installed Under Sidewalk

# Corporate Personnel Changes

**A**FTER fifty-four years of valuable and devoted service to this Company and one of its predecessor companies, the Addyston Pipe and Steel Company, David P. Hopkins has resigned as Vice-President in charge of operations. Speaking for his host of friends within and without the Company, the Editor wants to express regret over his relinquishment of active participation in the affairs of the Company and wish him many more years of the best that life has to offer.

Richard K. Haughton has been elected to succeed Mr. Hopkins as Vice-President in charge of operations. He was formerly manager of our Birmingham, Alabama Plant and

has been for the past three years General Works Manager.

Donald Ross has been elected Secretary and Treasurer of this Company filling these offices which have been vacant since Donovan H. Tyson, former Secretary-Treasurer, resigned to join the U. S. Army as a Major (now Lieutenant-Colonel) in the service of Supply.

John S. Coleman, president of the Birmingham Trust and Savings Company, was elected director of this Company replacing James C. Brady, who resigned to serve as a Lieutenant in the Navy.

Christopher R. Wynne, acting comptroller, was appointed comptroller.

## PROGRAM FOR PHILADELPHIA WATER SYSTEM IS UNDER WAY

(Concluded from Page 13)

Two projects involving the installation of cast iron pipe were started early and have now been completed. One project required 4100 feet of 12-inch cast iron pipe. This was laid in the University of Pennsylvania section of West Philadelphia to reinforce the gridiron system in that area. The other project included 20,000 feet of 16-inch cast iron pipe. This was laid in the northeast section of the city to serve as a supplemental feeder main to that area. All the pipe for these two projects was furnished by this Company. Standard cement lined pipe with seal coat was used throughout. With the exception of a short run of 16-inch pit-cast pipe, all was Super-deLavaud centrifugally cast iron pipe. Both of these installations were made by M. & J. B. McHugh, Contractors, Philadelphia.

## SALVAGE AND REUSE OF CAST IRON WATER PIPE BY PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

(Concluded from Page 7)

one large M1A locomotive, illustrated herewith, can hold 21,000 gallons which it will consume in ninety miles when pulling a train of capacity length.

In addition to furnishing the necessary water for the operation of the railroad, these water companies are of great potential value to the communities adjacent to their lines. They represent an alternate source of water supply which could be utilized in case an emergency was caused by the bombing of the municipal supply. Most of these water companies are already interconnected with community systems and many other communities could be connected if the dire need arose.



## MAYOR REJECTS U.S. PLEA FOR PUMPS

40,000,000 Gal. Machines Needed for System here, he says

Mayor Samuel today refused to approve a request of J. A. Krug, Director of the Office of War Utilities at Washington, that this city permit the transfer to Detroit of four 40,000,000-gallon pumps needed in Philadelphia's water rehabilitation program.

The telegram to Krug was sent by Director of Public Works John H. Neeson following a conference with the Mayor and City Solicitor Robert M. Green.

"I am advised that I have no legal authority to dispose of city property purchased with money specially appropriated by the people of Philadelphia for this specific property," Neeson wrote to Krug.

### Becoming More Critical

"The condition of our water supply system is becoming more critical daily due to greater demands by war industries, increased population and other features. It is therefore vitally necessary that our application for needed priorities to complete the Lardner Point project in its entirety be granted. Otherwise, there is imminent danger that the war production of the Navy Yard, Frankford Arsenal and other war plants may be endangered by a failure of water supply service in this area."

In his letter to the city administration, Krug pointed out that the present water facilities in Detroit are adequate to meet estimated maximum daily demands, but pumps and transmission facilities will not be adequate to maintain the necessary minimum pressures during the peak hours on peak days if there should be a hot, dry summer.

"Since the new facilities must be (Continued on the Last Page, Column 4)

## CITY FIGHTS SHIFT OF WATER PUMPS

INQUIRER-5/19/43

A complete breakdown in the municipal water system and a delay of nearly a year in the \$18,000,000 water improvement program face Philadelphia if the city is forced to comply with a Government request to transfer four 40,000,000 gallon pumps to "meet an emergency" in the Detroit area this summer, Director of Public Works John H. Neeson warned yesterday.

The warning came a few hours after Mayor Samuel had informed J. A. Krug, director of the Office of War Utilities, War Production Board, that he was without authority to dispose of city property purchased with funds earmarked for such purposes.

### PRECEDENTS FOR SEIZURE

Although the Mayor rejected the Government's plea, City Hall observers predicted that the WPB, if need be, would seize the equipment for transfer to Detroit. There are precedents for such action, including the seizure by the Government of a large number of trucks which were awaiting delivery to the city.

From another City Hall source came the prediction that "there'll be some fight" if Philadelphia is forced to part with the pumps.

### CATASTROPHE FEARED

Erked by the prospect of losing the equipment, Neeson declared: "A breakdown of our processed

water out of Lardner's Point (on the Delaware River) will be catastrophic. We aren't facing a theoretical situation, which is true of Detroit. Our's is a real, critical problem.

"And it's not a question of patriotism or aiding the Detroit war effort. Philadelphia is the center of a tremendously active war production area with the Navy Yard, arsenals, Quartermaster Depot, industries like Budd's and Bendix and hundreds of smaller plants engaged in war work. We have to protect these industries and our own people."

He explained that in addition to the 40,000,000-gallon pumps, delivery of which was expected by July 15, the city already has ordered four 30,000,000-gallon pumps and two of 25,000,000 gallons capacity each. Some of the latter two types already have been received.

### MOTORS ALSO SOUGHT

The Government's request to transfer the pumps to Detroit also included four 2000 H. P. motors and motor-generator sets, which have been received and waiting installation in a temporary building at the Lardner's Point station.

"If we agreed to give up the pumps," said Neeson, "it would postpone for more than a year the reproduction of the same pumps and motor-generators sets. Even if the WPB issued immediate priorities for this new equipment it would take 10 months to manufacture and assemble it."

The Government's request to transfer the pumps to Detroit was based on the assumption that the Michigan city would need an additional 160,000,000 gallons of water daily if a drought or a long, hot summer occurs. The four pumps, it was pointed out, would make up the deficiency.

Neeson explained that Lardner's Point was chosen as the first big step in the city's water improvement program because of the critical condition of the plant equipment. He said city engineers had been repairing the pumps with whatever material they could obtain, but that it was problematical how long they would last.

make a real contribution toward the effective prosecution of the war if it will enter into negotiations with the Federal Works Administration to the end that the four 40,000,000-gallon pumping units now being produced for the city of Philadelphia by the De Laval Steam Turbine Co., together with the four 2,000-horsepower Westinghouse motors and motor-generator sets now in Philadelphia and designed to drive the above pumps, be made available for use in meeting the emergency in the Detroit area this coming summer."

Krug proposed that arrangements be made through Regional FWA Director John Gallagher in New York City.

## CITY WATER PUMPS WILL GO TO DETROIT

INQUIRER-5/20/43

WASHINGTON, May 20.—Four 40,000,000-gallon water pumps, awaited by the City of Philadelphia to avert a breakdown of its water system, will be delivered to Detroit, it was learned today.

A spokesman for the Office of War Utilities of the War Production Board said there was no doubt that Philadelphia would not receive the equipment, but said that other measures would be taken to assure Philadelphia's water supply.

### PHILA. OPPOSES MOVE

WPB insisted that "there would not be much difficulty in working out an arrangement with Philadel-

## We Can't Give Up These Pumps

The only possible answer to the amazing request for transfer to Detroit of much-needed equipment being built for the Philadelphia water plant was that given to the Office of War Utilities by Mayor Samuel: a quick and forthright "No."

Detroit may need new pumps to assure its water system efficient pressure during extra-hot weather, but whatever its need in water equipment it can not expect to come anywhere near this city's plight. We can sympathize with Detroit, but in all justice we should not be asked to give up the pumps which we have needed for so long and which we fought such an uphill battle at Washington to obtain.

Unless the run-down machinery at Lardner's Point is replaced a whole area of the city, embracing important war industries, will be threatened with a drought at any time. As a matter of fact, the equipment which Detroit seeks is only a small part of that which we require to safeguard our water plants against a serious breakdown.

Surrender of the pumps at this juncture would be a crippling blow to our water supply. It is unthinkable.

## Water Conservation Vital Need

Serious shortage of water in the Philadelphia area was prevented last summer by wholehearted response to the city's water conservation campaign.

This year the necessity for conservation is even greater, and it is to be hoped that the people's response to Mayor Samuel's save-water appeal will be on an even larger scale.

It is no lack of raw water that is Philadelphia's problem—we have plenty in the two rivers at our doors. The strain is in our facilities to make the raw water drinkable and convey it to consumers. Our inadequate and in some instances old and worn-out water plant has only a certain capacity beyond which it cannot go. If demands exceed the capacity—well, they can't be met, that is all.

To make both ends meet, everyone must conserve water. That means the observance of two principal rules: Repair all leaks and other defects in pipes and avoid wasting a drop of water.

## Let Them See for Themselves

Agreement by the Government officials concerned to inspect the water plants here before ordering transfer to Detroit of the four pumps now under construction for Philadelphia is at least something gained for our side.

It is this city's contention that the pumps are so badly needed to insure sufficient water supply to a highly industrial area that Detroit's claim to priority cannot possibly be considered. Once the officials take a look at our plants, they may accept our view and permit us to keep the pumps.

We hope the visitors are not spared any of the particulars of our ancient and deteriorating system. They may wonder, before they are finished, that we are able to get any water at all from our spigots.

## PUMP SHIFT ORDER OFF PENDING PARLEY

INQUIRER Washington Bureau WASHINGTON, May 24.—Arthur E. Gorman, director of the War Division of the War Production Board, agreed today to confer with Philadelphia city officials before formally ordering the four 40,000,000-gallon water pumps awaited by Philadelphia delivered to Detroit.

The conference, which probably will be held in Philadelphia on Wednesday or Thursday, was arranged by Gorman at the request of Representatives C. Frederick Praeger, James Gallagher, Sr., and Hugh Scott, Jr., all of Philadelphia.

The three Congressmen, all publicans, called on Gorman yesterday to protest WPB's tentative decision to transfer the pumps, being built for Philadelphia water system, to Detroit "without making a proper survey of the actual needs of Philadelphia."

"The water situation in Detroit is theoretical and depends on whether the weather is hot and dry," Scott said later. "Philadelphia faces a serious situation if there is a breakdown at Lardner's Point Pumping Station."

"Mr. Gorman contended that the situation in Detroit warranted prior consideration by WPB," Scott said. "We pointed out to him that if these pumps are transferred there would be no replacements available in event of a breakdown in Philadelphia."

Scott said that, while a preference rating has been given for concrete and steel to build a vault for the Liberty Bell, these priorities would be without value unless a way is cleared to make possible the purchase of 1.6 tons of steel and a hydraulic lift.

## Save Water, Warning to City

It is now trying to come through the courts.

"The situation facing us now and during the next 90 days when water demands will increase at a rapid rate, will be worse than a year ago," the Mayor said.

"For example, industries are not operating at capacity; there are thousands of Victory gardens in Philadelphia and the four surrounding counties, and in Philadelphia 60 percent of our supply is being jeopardized by the accumulation of silt deposits in the Schuylkill."

### Conference on Crisis

The Mayor's statement followed a conference arranged by the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, attended by Director John H. Neeson, Martin J. McLaughlin, chief of the Philadelphia Water Bureau; Renie I. Dodd, manager of the Chester municipal water works; William C. Emigh, Coatesville city engineer; Ellwood J. Turner, chairman, and James H. Allen, engineer of the Interstate Commission.

## SAVE WATER! CITY WARNED OF SHORTAGE

## Supply Inadequate, With or Without New Pumps.

Philadelphia must start saving water right now or face a serious shortage within 90 days, Acting Mayor Bernard Samuel said yesterday.

### Warning Issued

Samuel issued his warning before he knew—officially, at least—that the four 40,000,000-gallon pumps which the city had been counting on to replace outworn equipment, and which were to have been delivered here within a month, had been commandeered by the War Production Board and assigned to Detroit to meet a water crisis there.

Informed of the WPB order, Samuel said he would have no comment until he received official notification. But with the new pumps or without them, he said, Philadelphia must hoard its water this summer.

### Rain No Help.

The impending shortage has nothing to do with the amount of rainfall. The skies could pour a constant deluge from now on and it would make no difference. The need is for "manufactured" water, filtered and chemically treated, and there just isn't enough of that to go 'round.

A four-point program that will provide enough water for essential household and industrial use was laid down by the Mayor:

1. Repair leaky plumbing fixtures promptly. A faucet can waste as much as 400 gallons a day.
2. Use water "sensibly" for lawn and garden sprinkling, which means, for the most part, leave the job to nature.
3. Limit household consumption for bathing, cooking and shaving to a minimum. Do not "let the water run" to cool it for drinking purposes because that wastes water.
4. Do everything else that will conserve the supply.

A similar program averted a serious drought last year, Samuel said, and it is hoped the memory of that campaign is still fresh enough in the public mind to make its continuance this year, when the need is even greater, a matter of course.

### Silt a Big Factor.

A big factor in the water shortage is the Schuylkill silt accumulation, which the Legislature has refused to remedy and which the

Continued on Page 4, Column 7.

phia," though last Tuesday Director of Public Works John H. Neeson, of Philadelphia, and Mayor Samuel vigorously opposed transferring the new pumps to Detroit.

Neeson said that a complete breakdown of the water system and a delay of nearly a year in Philadelphia's \$18,000,000 water improvement program faced the city if it did not receive the pumps.

J. A. Krug, director of the Office of War Utilities, had asked Philadelphia to relinquish its claim to the pumps, which are now being built, in order that they may be used to "meet an emergency" in the Detroit area. Mayor Samuel promptly declined, explaining that he had no authority to dispose of city property purchased with funds earmarked for specific purposes.

The emergency in Detroit was described as "immediate," while that in Philadelphia "has not yet developed." The northern section of Detroit, it was said, has inadequate water for both war industries and private homes.

Neeson apparently had a different understanding of the water situation in Detroit. Earlier this week he described it as "a theoretical situation" while Philadelphia has "a real, critical problem."

### NO NOTIFICATION RECEIVED

Mayor Samuel yesterday announced that he has received "no official notice" of the reported diversion of the water pumps to Detroit.

"It is inconceivable to me," he added, "that the Government should take such action."

## FIGHTS REMOVAL OF WATER PUMPS

## City Renews Protest to WPB Official; Decision Deferred

City officials renewed their fight yesterday against removal to Detroit of the four 40,000,000-gallon water pumps awaited here.

Their protests were voiced to Arthur E. Gorman, director of the water division of the War Production Board, at a conference in the office of Director of Public Works John H. Neeson.

### Defers Formal Order.

Gorman agreed last Monday to a conference before formally ordering the pumps diverted to Detroit. He will report to Washington the results of yesterday's discussion.

Neeson led the fight to retain the pumps, stressing that Philadelphia's water system "is in a precarious condition," and that Philadelphia needs the pumps more than Detroit, which only "expects" a hot, dry summer.

"We know our system needs to be safeguarded," he said. "And we, too, have defense plants that must be supplied."

### Slated to Arrive July 15.

The pumps are scheduled to be delivered here July 15. Temporary housing already has been built for them at Lardner's Point Pumping Station.

Pumps or no pumps, Acting Mayor Bernard Samuel warned last week the city must conserve water now or face a serious shortage in 90 days.

## 4 POINTS OUTLINED FOR SILT FIGHT

Ladner Wants Martin to Make Deposits in River Unlawful

A four-point program for carrying on the fight against the dumping of silt into the Schuylkill River was outlined last night by Judge Grover C. Ladner, president of the Schuylkill River Valley Restoration Association.

In an address at the annual meeting of the association at 1619 Walnut st., he suggested first that Governor Martin be urged "to do what the Legislature failed to do—make coal silt dumping unlawful." This could be done, he asserted, through the Sanitary Water Board.

He said Federal aid should be invoked in the fight; that river front property owners should be supported in litigation in Federal courts to recover riparian rights infringed by silt deposits; and that all communities along the Schuylkill should be united in a common effort for river purification.

### Action of WPB Criticized

The War Production Board's order transferring to Detroit four 40,000,000-gallon pumps originally earmarked for Philadelphia, which is seeking to rehabilitate its water system, was criticized at the meeting.

"This city has been sold down the river with a vengeance," declared Dr. William Moore. "They won't let us have pure water and now they take away the pumps we need to get what water we have into the reservoirs."

A formal protest to be sent to the WPB was voted on his motion.

### 'Mass Walkout' in Legislature

State Representative Charles H. Brunner of Montgomery County, sponsor of a bill which would have made the dumping of silt into the river unlawful, denounced the legislators who refused to vote on the measure when it was brought up.

"I never saw such a mass walk-out," he said. "They wouldn't even listen to the debate, they were so afraid of being caught in their seats when the time to vote came."

Brunner, R. A. Jacobson, secretary of the Reading Chamber of Commerce, and John Deck, state president of the Izaak Walton League, promised to continue the fight against pollution.

ner and all the other officers re-elected.

## WPB and Neeson To Discuss Sewer

INQUIRER-5/26/43 WASHINGTON, May 25.—War Production Board representatives, in a conference at Philadelphia this week with Director of Public Works John H. Neeson, will attempt to iron out a tangle over priorities which has long delayed construction of the so-called Sandy Run sewer system in Burholme.

Representative C. Frederick Praeger (R., Pa.), whose district includes the Burholme section, made this announcement today and declared that "curtailment of the Sandy Run main sewer is definitely a health hazard."

This sewer would be constructed through a section of Burholme in which lack of proper sewer facilities has for several years resulted in tests from residents of the area.



# City Told to Convert Oil Heating Units

A directive to the city to convert fuel oil heating units to coal in municipally owned buildings or face the prospect of heatless days next winter was given yesterday by Lawrence R. Snyder, regional engineer for the Petroleum Administration for War.

Addressing a meeting of the City Council's committee on finance, Snyder said the order applies to all

cities along the eastern seaboard and that armed forces will have oil even if there is none for home consumption.

At the same time, John H. Neeson, director of Public Works, said the city was willing to convert wherever possible, but that work will not be started until the critical material needed for conversion "is on the ground."

"We are not going to tear down

our heating plants," declared Neeson, "and then find that some vital part, which is needed, cannot be obtained."

## One Holiday for I. C. C.

WASHINGTON, May 25 (U. P.).—The Interstate Commerce Commission today announced that the only holiday it would observe for the duration would be Christmas Day.

save their fighting for the Germans.

## We Almost Had Some New Pumps

There is no particular reason to greet with loud cheers the plan to lease four water pumps, now being completed for this city's use, to Detroit for the balance of the summer.

Perhaps the arrangement represents the best that could be gotten out of a bad deal, but that will be scant comfort if the antique pumps that we had hoped to replace break down in the middle of a hot spell.

The Government agency concerned has insisted that Detroit needs the equipment more than we do, so, in the last analysis, there is nothing much we can do about it.

But if Detroit's plight is worse than ours, its citizens have a sincere sympathy. We hope our nice new pumps will help them out. We also hope, finally, that the pumps we don't go to pieces before Labor Day.

## COUNCIL IS TOLD OF PUMP SHIFT

U. S. to Pay City Bonus and Priorities are Promised

The four 40,000-gallon pumps which were to have been installed at the Lardner's Point Pumping Station will go to Detroit under a modified form of "lend-lease," Frederick D. Garman, president of City Council, announced today.

He explained that Council tomorrow will authorize Director John H. Neeson, of Public Works, to consummate the transaction with the Federal Government, which pledges to pay this city \$6,000 in the form of a bonus.

The pumps are to be turned over to Philadelphia by Detroit after October 31, it was explained, and the Government guarantees necessary priorities to complete the installations of at least two will be forthcoming.

Materials needed for two other pumps will be forthcoming next summer, under the Federal agreement.

The proposal was informally ratified by councilmen at a meeting with Mayor Samuel and Director Neeson.

The Federal Government will pay the cost of transporting the pumps to Detroit where they are badly needed. The pumps are being made by the DeLaval Corp., of Trenton, under a sub-contract with the Dravo Corp. Four motor generating sets will be shipped from Philadelphia.

## Anti-Pollution Group Says City Was 'Sold Down the River.'

The action of the Federal Government in depriving Philadelphia of the pumps it needs for its silt-polluted water supply is adding insult to injury, the Schuylkill River Valley Restoration Association decided at its annual meeting last night.

"This city has been sold down the river with a vengeance," said Dr. William Moore. "They won't let us have pure water, and now they take away the pumps we need to get what water we have into the reservoirs."

Will Protest to WPB. He was referring to the recent War Production Board order transferring to Detroit four 40,000-gallon pumps which were to have been delivered here next month. On his motion the association voted a formal protest to be sent to WPB.

Grover C. Ladner, president, reviewed the unsuccessful fight for legislation which would have outlawed silt-dumping by coal mine operators and called for support for the city's current plan to seek relief through injunction proceedings in the courts.

"The abatement of pollution in the Schuylkill River is essentially nonpartisan," said Ladner. "It should and must be kept on a non-political plane."

Urges 4-Point Plan. He urged a four-point program for carrying on the anti-pollution fight:

1. Urge Governor Edward Martin through the Sanitary Water Board, to "do what the Legislature failed to do, make coal silt dumping unlawful."

2. Invoke Federal aid in combating silt dumping.

3. Support action by riverfront property owners in litigation in Federal courts to recover riparian rights infringed by silt deposits.

4. Unite all communities along the Schuylkill in a common effort for river purification.

## Brunner Raps Walkout.

Representative Charles H. Brunner, of Montgomery county, sponsor of the anti-silt bill, assailed the 70-odd legislators who refused to vote on the bill either way.

"I never saw such a mass walkout," he said. "They wouldn't even listen to the debate, they were so afraid of being caught in their seats when the time to vote came."

John Isaac Walton League, told of John Deck, State president of the League's support for the Brunner bill and promised aid for future antipollution efforts.

Officers Re-elected. All the present officers of the association were re-elected, with the addition of Clarence Ebert, of Reading, and Mrs. C. C. Zanger, chairman of the Women's Legislative Committee, as vice-presidents.

## MAXEY SAYS SUIT WON'T SOLVE CITY WATER PROBLEMS

Pocono Supply Only Way Out, He Says of Plea to Ban Silt Dumping

By THOMAS P. O'NEIL

Chief Justice George W. Maxey, of the State Supreme Court, yesterday predicted Philadelphia will never solve its water problem until it utilizes streams in the Pocono Mountains as its source of drinking water.

Purification of the silt-clogged Schuylkill, Maxey added, is not a matter for litigation but for cooperative action by the city, the Commonwealth and the coal companies.

## Gives Informal Opinion

The Chief Justice's opinions were voiced informally as the city moved to have the high court revive a 46-year-old decree restraining coal companies from dumping silt into the river.

City Solicitor Robert McCay Green sought to file an amended bill of complaint to make 22 additional companies defendants in the old action.

Thomas C. Egan, representing two recently formed coal companies that were listed among the new defendants, objected.

## Court Suggests Plan

The court thereupon suggested that the orderly procedure would be for the City Solicitor to file a petition for use on the various companies to show cause why the proposed amended bill should not be filed.

That means no formal argument will be possible until the fall session in September.

## Asks About Bootleggers

When the City Solicitor informed the court of the city's desire to name new defendants, Chief Justice Maxey asked whether any coal bootleggers were among them. Green replied in the negative; that there was some doubt about this of the bootleggers, but that the city was looking into the question preparatory to acting against them.

Maxey declared he had been advised that some 23 or 24 bootleg mines were dumping silt into the Schuylkill.

## Justice Drew Displeased

Justice James B. Drew seemed displeased with the form of the city's procedure.

"I don't see how you can add new defendants to this old action," he said.

Green insisted that the city was prepared to present evidence to show that the 22 additional defendants were contributing to the nuisance the court had ordered abated.

## Problem for Statesmen

Maxey observed that the problem, in his opinion, was one "for statesmen rather than lawyers."

He inquired what the city was going to do about communities that dump sewage into the river.

Green said that the city was going to get after them once solved the silt problem.

## Advises New Supply

It was at this point that Maxey suggested that it would be cheaper in the long run for the city to get its drinking water from the Poconos. He said he had been advised the cost would be about \$50,000,000.

The Chief Justice asked how much it would cost to clean up the Schuylkill.

Green replied that U. S. Army engineers estimated that it would require from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 to free the Schuylkill of old silt and an additional \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000 to prevent new deposits.

## Coal Firm Accuses City

A formal answer to the suit, filed by Robert W. White, president of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, accused the city itself of responsibility for pollution of the rivers.

For many years, the answer said, the city "discharged into the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers enormous quantities of raw and untreated sewage, menacing the health of communities along the lower Delaware."

The city, White said, receives \$7,000,000 annually for supplying water to consumers, but spends only \$2,000,000 on the water system, using most of the \$5,000,000 profit for "other functions of the city government."

A small portion of this profit is used to improve Fairmount Dam and for dredging, "would eliminate the harmful consequence alleged as a result of sedimentation," he said.

Purification of the Schuylkill and sparkling water from the Poconos seemed a long way off as the court day ended.

## Neeson Signs Pact To Lease Pumps

Director of Public Works John H. Neeson and Government officials yesterday signed an agreement in Washington by which Philadelphia loaned Detroit four 40,000-gallon water pumps and four motor generators designed for use in the city's water system.

The equipment is to be used in Detroit until Oct. 31, when it is to be returned to Philadelphia.

"Here is an example of municipal lend-lease where one great American city helps another in the all-out war effort," said Major General Philip B. Fleming, Federal Works Administrator, in announcing the agreement. "Detroit needed the equipment. Philadelphia had it. FWA provided the facilities, with WPB co-operation, that made the transfer possible."

## RIVER SILT TAXES FILTERING PLANTS

Aging Machinery Must Cleanse Water Growing Constantly Muddier

Philadelphia's filtering plants must remove more silt and substances from the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers now than when the plants were new.

The plants must do this even though they are greatly in need of rehabilitation and improvements, according to a survey made by the Bureau of Municipal Research.

At the Delaware River, the Dale plant, official records for the first 10 years, 1914-1923, show a yearly average of daily sediment tests was 10 parts per million; the last 10 years, 1933-1942, average was 78 parts.

The 10-year plant, during 1933-1942, pumped 55.9 billion gallons of water and removed 10,210 tons of sediment. The Schuylkill River Belmont plant removed 8687 tons of sediment from 20.9 billion gallons of water.

## CITY CONFERENCE ON PUMP TRANSFER

The problem of whether Detroit is to get four 40,000-gallon pumps originally destined for Philadelphia's \$18,000,000 water improvement project was threshed out yesterday by War Production Board and city officials in the office of Director of Public Works John H. Neeson.

The conference was called as a result of the city's objections to the WPB's suggestion that Philadelphia permit the pumps to be delivered to Detroit, where there is an urgent need for 160,000,000 additional gallons of water daily.

## NEED AS GREAT

Neeson and other city officials hold that Philadelphia's needs are just as great, because the pumps are to be installed at Lardner's Point, where they will serve such war plants as the Navy Yard, Cramp's, Frankford Arsenal and Midvale Steel. As a result of Neeson's request for a conference on the matter, he was visited yesterday by Arthur B. Gorman, chief of the water section of WPB.

Accompanying Gorman were Herbert S. Marks, acting director of the power division of WPB, and Harvey S. Howe, chief of the water equipment section of WPB.

Others participating in the conference were Orville H. Bullitt, regional director of WPB; City Solicitor Robert McCay Green; Seth M. Van Loan, who is in charge of the water improvement program, and Nathan L. Jacobs, a consulting engineer.

## NELSON COMMENDS CITY 'LEND-LEASE' DEAL

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10.—The diversion of Philadelphia's four 40,000-gallon water pumps to Detroit last May was termed "the first municipal lend-lease" deal today by War Production Board Chairman Donald Nelson in a letter to Major General Philip B. Fleming, Federal Works Administrator.

## Mayor and Council Decide on Lease to FWA at \$6000 Rental.

By EDWARD STONE

The city decided yesterday to embark on its first "lend-lease" venture.

At an informal meeting of City Council with Acting Mayor Samuel in the Mayor's City Hall reception room, it was agreed to lend Detroit—for three and a half months—the four water pumps sought by the War Production Board for that city.

The agreement, suggested by WPB, is scheduled to be confirmed formally by a resolution of Council at its regular meeting today, and by the Acting Mayor's signature afterward. That action will wind up the recent tug-of-war between WPB and the city.

## Leased Until Oct. 31.

According to the resolution, Director of Public Works John H. Neeson will be authorized to lease to the Federal Works Agency for \$6000 the four pumps and four accompanying motor generator sets to run them. The lease will continue until October 31, to cover Detroit's summer needs.

After that the equipment will be returned to the city. In consideration of the loan, the WPB will assure the city of the needed priorities for critical material necessary to install two of the pumps and motor sets at Lardner's Point pumping station.

## Question of Needs.

The WPB also will reopen the question of the city's water system needs, and on the basis of this summer's experience will consider the granting of priorities for transmission facilities, switch gear and transformers to install the remaining two pumps and motor equipment in time for next summer's requirements.

Detroit is to return the leased equipment in good condition, and the FWA is to pay all expenses of transportation, repairs and reconditioning. The city, therefore, not only will receive \$6000 out of the deal, but will be saved all expense in connection with it.

## Trip to Detroit.

Yesterday's decision followed a trip by Director Neeson to Detroit two weeks ago to ascertain the situation there at first hand. Earlier, Neeson and the Acting Mayor refused to turn over the pumps on the ground Philadelphia needed them more than Detroit.

After his trip, however, Neeson is said to have been convinced that Detroit's needs during the summer would be critical, and he and the Acting Mayor are understood to have reversed their stand.

The pumps now are being manufactured for the city, and are expected to be completed by July 15. The motor sets already are delivered and are in storage here.

continue at top speed? 6-4-43

## Sensible Compromise

THE spirit of accommodation in which the disposition of the City's new water pumping equipment has been settled reflects high credit on everybody concerned.

Philadelphia concedes that Detroit faces a water supply crisis this summer and lets it have the pumps, not forever, as originally proposed, but until October 31. Washington has seemingly been won over to the idea that this City faces a standing water crisis, and will get the pumps back to Philadelphia free of cost, with \$6,000 to boot.

By agreeing to the delay Philadelphia may have won for itself better understanding of its needs at Washington and better co-operation in completing the overhauling of its waterworks.

Philadelphians naturally feel that since they ordered this equipment they should have it. In such times as these many matters previously purely local in import must be regarded from the standpoint of national welfare, but considerations of national as well as local welfare dictate that these pumps take up permanent residence in Philadelphia in the near future.

The ancient equipment at Lardner's Point will have to stumble along a few months longer than had been expected, so it behooves all patrons of the city waterworks to make its but-don as light as possible. A breakdown would be most unpleasant.

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## Neeson Outlines Phila. Postwar Projects Plan

An ambitious \$350,000,000 program for the expansion and development of Philadelphia, immediately after peace releases labor and materials, was outlined last week by Director of Public Works John H. Neeson.

He disclosed projects, mapped by the Philadelphia Planning Commission, at a one-day session of a Postwar Planning Conference sponsored by the construction industry and the Pennsylvania Committee of the American Roadbuilders Association at the Bellevue-Stratford.

Specifically, Neeson outlined plans for:

An elevated, super-highway over Delaware ave. from a point near Oregon ave. northward for a distance of about five and one-half miles, with selected interchange points for local traffic.

Widening of the approaches to the Delaware River bridge, a project for which clearance already has been obtained through condemnation proceedings.

Highway improvements on Henry, Aramingo, Stenton and Pennsylvania aves., revision of Roosevelt boulevard from Oxford Circle eastward, with an underpass at Hunting Park ave. and an underpass at the East River Drive and Ridge ave.

Improvements in sewage disposal, drainage and water works, extension of flood control, expansion of railroad terminals, hospitals and other institutions and development of parks and other recreation areas.

Opening to industry potentially usable areas adjacent to the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers, through completion of road plans for Penrose and Essington aves., 26th st., and the Oregon ave.-Vare ave.-34th st. network to Gray's Ferry.



# Cheaper to Tap Poconos For Water, Maxey Says

## Pocono Water Called Costly

Cheaper to Clean Up  
Schuylkill, Is Neeson  
Reply to Justice Maxey

Director of Public Works John H. Neeson declared yesterday that the proposal to tap Pocono Mountain streams for a new source of water supply would be 10 times more costly than ridding the Schuylkill of silt, provided the stream were kept clean permanently.

Chief Justice George W. Maxey, during a hearing Wednesday on the city's suit to prevent further pollution of the Schuylkill, described as "absurd" municipal engineers' estimate that the river could be cleaned up for between \$10,000,000 and \$15,000,000. Justice Maxey added that the cost probably would "be nearer \$50,000,000."

Neeson declared yesterday that the estimated cost of removing silt from the river had been reduced after many surveys by competent engineers.

### CAN HAVE GOOD WATER

Neeson said if Philadelphia residents were to choose between Pocono Mountain water and the present water supply, they would undoubtedly select the mountain water.

"But," he said, "Philadelphia can have good water from the Schuylkill if the stream is cleaned up and no further silt or debris is emptied into it."

"Contrary to public opinion, Pocono Mountain water is not virginal or free from contamination. It would have to be treated, although not to the extent that is required for our present supply."

### EVIDENCE OF FAITH

Commenting on remarks by the Court that up-State communities were contributing to the pollution of the Schuylkill by emptying sewage into the river, Neeson said all the towns and cities joining with Philadelphia in fighting pollution were taking steps to prevent further contamination of the water.

"All of these communities," he said, "have installed some sewage disposal equipment and are planning to improve it. The fact that they have joined with Philadelphia in an effort to clean up the river appears, to me, to be evidence of their good faith in the matter."

Litigation Is No Solution,  
Supreme Court Justice  
Tells City at Silt Hearing

The city will find it cheaper in the long run to bring its drinking water from Pocono Mountain streams than to eliminate coal silt from its present Schuylkill water supply, Chief Justice George W. Maxey of the State Supreme Court declared here yesterday.

He made the statement during argument before the court on the city's petition to file an amended bill of complaint against coal mining companies operating in the Schuylkill Valley. The city seeks to prevent them from dumping mine and breaker refuse into the river and its tributaries.

The court yesterday granted City Solicitor Robert McCay Green permission to file a petition asking amendment of the original bill, so that the names of 22 companies which have come into existence since the bill was filed in 1896 may be added to the two remaining original respondents.

### 1907 INJUNCTION RECALLED

In 1907, the high court handed down a decree restraining the principal coal companies of the valley from dumping silt into the Schuylkill, but the order was held in abeyance when attorneys for the companies informed a master in the case that they were taking measures to prevent further pollution.

The city contends that such measures were not taken, and that the companies are still responsible for conditions which make the waters of the stream virtually unfit for consumption.

In answer to the city's suit, also filed yesterday, the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co. denied that mining operations were responsible for pollution of the Schuylkill and accused Philadelphia itself of causing the present condition.

### CITES INDUSTRIAL WASTES

"Any inferiority of the Philadelphia water supply for drinking and domestic purposes is not in any respect attributable to mining operations," Robert V. White, president of the company, charged in its answer, but "is primarily due to the discharge into the river, both above and in Philadelphia, of the wastes of manufacturing plants." The company asked dismissal of the city's petition, filed last May 15, and of the original bill of complaint.

Thomas C. Egan, representing two of the companies named in the amended bill, pointed out that one was formed in 1939 and the other in 1943. Arguing against the city's petition, he said that they should not be bound by the record of the original proceedings, and that they could not be held responsible for dumping silt into the river when they did not exist.

### MAXEY GIVES VIEWS

In informal discussion of the city's water supply problem during the hearing, Chief Justice Maxey told Green that an estimate of \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 as the cost of dredging the silt now blocking the river "sounds absurd to me." He said he had heard previously that the cost would be nearer \$50,000,000. Though conceding Green's right to file the petition, he added:

"I'll predict that eventually you'll have to go into the Poconos and dam those beautiful streams to get your water. I do not think this situation can be solved by litigation. The solution calls for statesmanship."

"In the long run, I think it would be cheaper for the City of Philadelphia to tap the abundant streams of the Poconos than to try to get the mine people to spend all this money to prevent silt in the river."

## Five Fined For Violating Food Laws

Magistrate N. Edwin Lindell yesterday imposed fines totaling \$300 on five individuals and firms on charges of violating the Pennsylvania food laws. Six other store owners were permitted to sign affidavits charging jobbers and packers with having sold them foodstuffs below the quality standards set by the State Department of Agriculture.

James Callo, an official of the Philadelphia Ice Cream Co., S. 9th st. near Ellsworth, paid fines of \$25 each on two charges preferred by Raymond Regan, chief agent for the Bureau of Food and Chemistry of the Department of Agriculture.

### INSUFFICIENT BUTTERFAT

Regan testified that analysis of ice cream sold by the firm showed it contained 7.6 butterfat. The State requirements call for 10 percent butterfat. Callo was also fined for selling ice cream containing brine.

Max Lions, of N. 12th st. near Spring Garden, was fined \$50 on a charge of having meat in his show case which was termed by Regan "unfit for human consumption."

### TWO FINES IMPOSED

Two fines of \$50 each were imposed on the Giant Tiger Co., operators of a store at 41st and Chestnut sts. They were charged with selling sausage with excessive fat content.

Leo Smith, of W. Huntingdon st. near 26th, had his fine of \$50 paid on a sausage violation by Edward Collins, an attorney, who said he was representing the Rath Packing Co., which Smith said sold him the sausage.

Mrs. Pauline Kimelman, Ridge ave. near 27th st., paid a \$50 fine for selling frankfurters containing cereal.

### AFFIDAVITS SIGNED

Affidavits were signed by five store owners, alleging that sausage purchased by agents were furnished by packers, who will be arraigned later, said Regan. They were: Louis Feldman, of W. Lehigh ave. near 24th st.; Victor Santella, of S. 58th st. near Hadfield; Samuel P. Osuto, of Lindbergh boulevard near 61st st.; Samuel Torrans, of N. 12th st. near Columbia ave., and Mrs. Reba Rudnick, of Haverford ave. near 60th st.

Mrs. Bessie Skorupsky, of N. 12th st. near Poplar, signed an affidavit saying she purchased lemon pie, alleged to have contained coal tar, from a bakery. She was not fined.

Water, Water Everywhere But Not a Drop to Drink



INUNDATED BY WATER FROM A BROKEN MAIN was this portion of Thirty-second St., looking toward Liberty Ave. Water

seeped up through the ground and then covered the street several inches deep.



TRAFFIC MOVED SLOWLY THROUGH THE FLOOD zone at Thirty-second St., where the road was blocked off to prevent possible damage. The water gurgled up out of the ground

in numerous spots and then roared down lifted curbstones six inches into the air in



## List of the City's Many Water Surveys

1798 JAN 5, 1944 1920

Benjamin H. Latrobe, engineer of "superior talent and industry," engaged to study the practicability of obtaining a water supply within a reasonable distance of the city.

1811

Further investigation of the Schuylkill and of Wissahickon and Spring Mill Creeks by John Davis and Frederick Graff.

1866

After preliminary surveys of sources, H. M. P. Birkinbine, Chief Engineer of the Water Department, recommended the Perkiomen.

1867

Park Commission reported that the Schuylkill could be relied upon for many years if properly guarded from pollution.

1875

A commission appointed to investigate the water problem made no recommendation as to future supply, simply stating that although it was too costly to be considered at that time, only practicable scheme for the future was the Perkiomen Reservoir and Conduit.

1882

Board of experts recommended increasing the capacity of existing works. This led to a survey which recommended that no water be taken from the Schuylkill or from the Delaware below Trenton because filtration was not considered practicable.

1883-86

A series of reports by Engineer Rudolph Hering.

1899

Commission of engineers recommended filtration. Recommendation followed by the city.

Board of four consulting engineers reported on inadequacies and defects. No action.

1924

Water Commission thought existing sources too badly polluted to be treated with single filtration (some water is now double filtered); recommended abandonment of Schuylkill and use of Tohickon and Perkiomen creeks; leaned toward abandonment of Delaware if it could be financed.

1933

Army engineers recommended dam at Tock's Island on the upper Delaware.

1937

Commission appointed to elect a new source recommended, after a month's study, the upper Lehigh Valley and Poconos. Mayor Wilson stated the cost would be \$74,000,000. A revised estimate by a subcommittee of the Commission put the figure at \$173,000,000.

1939

Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin recommended that the city discontinue the Schuylkill, Schuylkill River Valley Restoration Association advocated cleaning the Schuylkill and continuing its use.

1940

Morris Knowles, Inc., consulting engineers, advised that "modern purification plants are capable of producing a safe and potable water" from either the Schuylkill or Delaware, and that the supply would be adequate for a population of 2,500,000 if waste were eliminated through metering and otherwise.

1944

Mayor Samuel proposes a commission to study "upland sources."

## Upland Water Again

MAYOR SAMUEL'S inaugural address contains definite pledges of action along various lines of civic progress. It is sound in its selection of priorities along Philadelphia's needs. Water, sewage disposal, transportation, highway improvement, efficient city planning—all these receive their due emphasis. The Mayor is also alive to the critical problems involved in the coming change to a peacetime economy.

There is just one fly in the ointment. The Mayor is going to appoint a Commission to study upland sources of water supply. This is a subject various Commissions have studied off and on for more than 50 years.

There is something perennially alluring about the idea of bringing water long distances through aqueducts to Philadelphia. It conjures up pictures of crystal-clear bubbling springs in virgin forests—and of fat and profitable contracts involving many millions. On the latter account there will always be some one to push such projects and sell them on the first account to administrators of unquestioned probity.

When the Delaware and the Schuylkill supplies of gravity-delivered water show signs of inadequacy to meet Philadelphia's needs it will be well to look upland. But when that time comes, if ever, let nobody imagine that pure, wholesome water can be delivered by artificial means to our reservoirs. We shall then import, at tremendous cost, a raw product for processing into a safe potable water.

Taxpayers who stop to think—who realize that what they get they pay for—will not greet with three loud cheers any proposal that looks toward expenditure of fifty to a hundred million dollars for something we already have. The Mayor, to be sure, is not proposing any such expenditure; he promises to spend the people's money where it will do the most good. But it is disturbing to feel that somebody is bent on reviving schemes which have repeatedly blown up in the faces of their proponents when spotlighted by informed public opinion.

## Upland Water History

THE Commission promised by Mayor Samuel to study upland sources of water supply will be able to keep busy for quite a while simply reading the reports of other commissions and experts. A list of these, with brief summaries of their conclusions, appears elsewhere on this page.

A great deal of what is said in the reports of earlier times has no present applicability except that it gives valuable perspective. The Commissioners would learn the extent to which present notions of what should be done are mere survivals of past notions which have lost their validity through advances in water purification techniques.

Thus, early proposals for abandoning the Schuylkill and lower Delaware were predicated on the supposed impracticability of filtration.

If the new Commission examines the situation in the light of modern waterworks practice, and with an eye on the taxpayers' pocketbooks, it is more than likely to decide that after modernizing the waterworks and clearing up the upland sources, the city would be better to sit back and cash in on its good luck in having two fresh water rivers right in its back yard.

QUIRER. TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 4, 1944



## New City Water Supply Is Fledged by Mayor

Inquire Illustrated on Page 6 1-4-44 BY JOSEPH H. MILLER

Mayor Samuel, inducted into a full four-year term yesterday, assured Philadelphians he intended to provide the city with a new upland source to supply adequate and pure drinking water.

The proposal was outlined in the

Mayor's inaugural address at the Academy of Music as he presented a comprehensive and constructive post-war improvement program to provide jobs for returning service men and women.

### WATER BOARD PLANNED

First step in the plan to provide the city with a new source of water supply will be the appointment of a Water Commission to survey sites and make recommendations, he asserted.

While this is being done, the Mayor said that during his Administration he would complete the city's sewage disposal system, and extend underground drainage, in a move to end pollution of the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers so that more "potable water" will be furnished the city's residents.

### 1500 ATTEND CEREMONY

Samuel's oath of office was administered by Judge Raymond Mac-

observed inauguration day by taking time out between 9.40 A. M. and 9.50 "because of the heavy and unexpected load" brought on by the crowds that converged on the building to witness the induction of City Councilmen and other officials.

Bill said, we have the finest, greatest, best city in the United States. The people of Philadelphia chose wisely when they elected Barne Samuel as their Mayor of our great city and these 21 men as members of Council. I wish them four happy years and a wonderful administration.

Republican City Chairman David W. Harris, who is State Secretary of Revenue, said he was "particularly pleased to hear Mayor Samuel say that campaign promises and pledges are to be kept."

Governor Sends Best Wishes George I. Bloom, secretary to the Governor, extended the Chief Executive's compliments and best wishes. Secretary of Internal Affairs William S. Livingston, Jr., brought greetings from Western Pennsylvania.

Occupying a place of honor at the ceremonies was the Mayor's wife, Mrs. Eleanor Samuel. She sported a rare orchid presented by Charles H. Grakelow, a florist, who is Director of Supplies and Purchases. The flower, mottled green, was described by Grakelow as "the only one of its kind in the world." It was of the species of the Order of Cyripedium and came from a valuable plant, the property of Grakelow, which produces one bloom a year.

City Hall lights and elevators

Tonches of Pomp in Ceremony There were touches of pomp and pageantry in the inauguration—and also touches of politics. Promptly at noon, a uniformed police bugler strode onto the Academy stage and blared "First Call."

It seemed as if the loud speaker should announce: "The horses are now leaving the paddock," but it didn't and the rustle heard in the wings was only the members of City Council starting their march to their front row seats.

### Flourish Heralds Mayor

There was another long flourish from the trumpet and the incoming Mayor walked on stage amid flutterings of applause, which because of the smallness of the crowd were not loud enough to awaken the famous Academy bat.

Samuel was escorted by Council's inaugural committee, chairmaned by Clarence K. Crossan.

President of Council Frederic D. Garman, at the presiding officer's dais, called on Rev. John Edwin Hill, pastor of All Saints' Episcopal Church, 11th st. and Snyder ave., for the invocation.

### Judge Administers Oath

After Clerk of Council William W. Felton read Samuel's formal certification of election, the oath of office was administered to the Mayor by President Judge Raymond MacNeille, president of Common Pleas Court No. 3 and a fellow South Philadelphian.

It was then that the Police and Firemen's Band struck up the battle hymn of the Republican party and swung into the popular ditty of the soldiers of World War I.

### Ovation Follows Speech

Without further ado, the Mayor, attired in double-breasted suit of grayish blue, went into his speech, which covered 12 typewritten pages and required 25 minutes to deliver. Samuel spoke without attempts at oratory or gestures and was not once forced to pause for applause. At the end, he received a cordial ovation.

At the beginning of his speech, the Mayor pledged himself and the 21 Republican members of Council elected with him to carry out their campaign pledges.

"Those pledges were sincerely made," he said. "Today, we rededicate ourselves to their fulfillment. We shall keep faith with the people of Philadelphia and with the help of Almighty God we shall not fail."

### Water Dominates Speech

It soon became apparent that water was uppermost on the Mayor's mind and that in his heart he was not convinced that the present sources of supply could be put in satisfactory shape.

"There are, of course," he said, "two projects which stand out only as preferential in my mind but in the estimate of our citizens, as sorely need and to our mutual best interest. The first, of course, is water. The other is the earliest possible resumption and completion of our sewage treatment facilities and extension of our underground drainage system."

## City to Complete Dredging in July

The work of dredging the rowing course on the Schuylkill will be completed in time to insure holding of scheduled regattas on the river this summer, Director John H. Neeson, of the Department of Public Works, announced yesterday.

The Director said the job got under way May 9 and, barring unforeseen delays, would be finished early in July. He said the course, extending a mile upstream from Columbia Bridge along the east bank, is in such shape it can be used pending completion of the work.

### 4 LANES TO BE DREDGED

The \$70,000 appropriated by City Council, Director Neeson explained, is sufficient to dredge only four of the six lanes. Each of the four lanes, he said, will be six feet deep and 50 feet wide when the work is concluded.

"The dredging, which is being done by the Conduit and Foundation Corp., of Philadelphia," said the Director, "is confined to lanes three to six inclusive. At the present time we can do nothing about lanes one and two, which have been turned into mud flats due to dumping of silt in the river."

### COULD "ALTER POLICY"

"Now that the State Sanitary Water Board has prohibited further

PHILADELPHIA RECORD  
**Pure Water**  
CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE  
By THOMAS P. O'NEIL

dumping of silt," continued Director Neeson, "we will be able to alter our policy of dredging merely to keep abreast of the silt and concentrate on actually cleaning up the river. Meanwhile, as a further aid to oarsmen, the city—with its own maintenance men—is digging a channel in front of boathouse row to permit rowing shells to enter and leave the boathouses. This will be completed in a month."



# Pure Water Pledged City By Samuel at Inaugural

## Mayor Promises to End River Pollution by Improving Sewage Disposal; Will Name Commission to Study Upland Sources; 1000 Attend Ceremony

By THOMAS P. O'NEIL  
To the tune of "Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here," trailing off somewhat unhappily into "All We Do Is Sign the Payroll," Bernard Samuel yesterday stepped into office as Mayor of Philadelphia.

### Pledges Pure Water Program

As he dropped his title of Acting Mayor, Samuel immediately pledged a pure water program. Without reservation, he committed himself, his administration, City Council and the new City Planning Commission to:

1. Purification of the city's present sources of drinking water—the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers—by the elimination of pollution through completion of sewage disposal facilities and extension of the underground drainage system.
2. Consideration of the feasibility of tapping upland sources for the city's water supply, the question to be studied by a commission to be appointed by the Mayor and its report to include the basis of a plan for financing the project.

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Was Promised Before

In making water the principal topic of his inaugural address, heard by a rainy day crowd of about 1000 in the Academy of Music, Samuel set no precedent, but rather repeated the promises of a long line of predecessors.

But the pledge to appoint a commission to look into upstate sources of supply, while not new, represented a concession.

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Defended Present System

In the campaign that preceded his decisive victory at the November 2 election, the Mayor repeatedly and emphatically defended the present water system—the principal target of the Democrats.

While Samuel made it clear that the cleaning up of the Delaware and Schuylkill is to be first in his program, he left no doubt that he is willing to yield to public opinion if it insists on something better than "Chlorine Cocktails" of river water.

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"Because of the apparent desire on the part of our citizens for a new water supply and the controversies that have been going on for years over this question," he said, "I will appoint a commission to make a complete and thorough survey of sites and recommendations."

Past Reports Available

After pointing out that many reports of past surveys will be available to his commission, the Mayor continued:

"The people of Philadelphia have a right, if they desire, to receive a supply of water drawn from upland sources rather than from the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers, regardless of whether or not those streams could be made free of pollution. Unless a new source is secured, it may be that our city's water would continue to hold reservations in their minds as to the quality of our water."

"More adequate transportation must be provided for the great northeastern section, particularly between Oxford Circle and Pennypack Circle," he said. "There a great area awaits development and will provide housing facilities for many thousands of families and substantially increase the tax revenue of the city."

Refers to Bullitt

The first political touch—exclusive of the band's pardonable "Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here"—serenade was given to the inauguration by Lieutenant Governor John C. Bell, Jr., who represented the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Obviously referring to William C. Bullitt, Democratic candidate for Mayor, the Lieutenant Governor said:

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1944

# Pledged City by Samuel at Inaugural



Bernard Samuel is shown taking the oath of office as Mayor of Philadelphia from President Judge Raymond MacNellie yesterday at inauguration ceremonies at the Academy of Music.

## City Warned Of Shortage In Water \$250,000 Asked To Clean Basin

Warning that Philadelphia faces a water famine this summer unless the sedimentation basin at the Torresdale pumping station is cleaned, Director of Public Works John H. Neeson yesterday urged members of City Council's Finance Committee to make an immediate appropriation of at least \$250,000 to do the work.

The basin, which has not been cleaned in 30 years, is so clogged, declared Mr. Neeson, that the pumping capacity of the station has been reduced by 60 to 70 percent.

### WAR PLANTS AFFECTED

Martin J. McLaughlin, chief of the Water Bureau, told the committee that further curtailment of the water supply would seriously affect war plants in the highly industrialized area served by the station. It has a daily capacity of 240,000,000 gallons and serves the section along the Delaware River, as well as Fox Chase and Somerton.

Chief McLaughlin explained that the situation was further complicated by lack of manpower to clean the filter beds at the pumping station and approved a recommendation by Councilman George D. Mansfield that convict labor be used to do the work. He said at least 70 workers were needed, and only 30 regular employees were available at present.

Director Neeson said he had anticipated such a proposal and revealed that plans were being prepared to employ 40 inmates from Holmesburg County Prison on the filter beds.

### NO IDLE FUNDS AVAILABLE

L. Wallace Egan, chairman of the committee, explained that while the city had no idle funds for the basin cleaning job it might be possible to obtain the money through departmental transfers. Councilmen Clarence K. Crossan and Mansfield, however, proposed that an emergency loan be floated.

Council, at its weekly session, approved the Mayor's appointment of Dr. John L. Haney, former president of Central High School, to the board of trustees of the Free Library of Philadelphia, and the reappointment of Joseph Carson, president of the Fairmount Park Commission, and Giuseppe Donato, sculptor of the Art Jury.

PHILADELPHIA RECORD, FRIDAY

## CITY IS FACING 'WATER CRISIS,' NEESON WARNS

3-24-44  
He Reveals Plan to Clean  
Torresdale Filter Beds  
With Convict Labor

Philadelphia faces a possible "water crisis" this summer, Public Works Director John H. Neeson warned yesterday in announcing a plan to clean the Torresdale filter beds with convict labor at a cost of \$250,000.

The beds have not been cleaned in 30 years, Neeson told the City Council Finance Committee, and "sedimentation is so bad that capacity has dropped 60 or 70 percent." Decreased supply and increased demand from war industries make a water shortage certain unless action is taken now, Neeson said.

Mayor Samuel and Superintendent of County Prisons Frederick S. Baldi have approved the use of convict labor, the Councilmen were told. The regular maintenance force of 80 men at the filter beds is now down to 30, Neeson said, because many have left the city employ to enter war industry. The city used convict labor at the Torresdale pumping station to safeguard the water supply during the recent strike of municipal employees.

On Neeson's recommendation the committee approved transfer of an unused \$100,000 WPA appropriation to a special fund to be used for a survey of leakage in city water mains.

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## Professor Offers New Water Plan

INQUIRER 6/5/46  
William S. Pardoe, professor of hydraulic engineering at the University of Pennsylvania and chairman of the Committee of 70's water committee, last night advanced a new proposal for Philadelphia's future water source which he estimated would cost less than a third of the Wallpack Bend plan favored by City Council.

Mr. Pardoe outlined his proposal at the fourth in a series of meetings, and the first held at night, of the Council's Public Works Committee.

### COST PUT AT \$110,423,000

He asserted that his "Trenton-Warrington" plan would entail a capital cost of \$110,423,000, as compared to approximately \$347,000,000 for the Wallpack Bend plan. It would involve, he said, using Delaware River water below the Trenton Falls, rather than above them.

The operating costs of his plan, he added, would be \$4,455,000 a year, or \$330,000 less than Wallpack Bend, and an annual income of \$11,805,000 would be realized—an amount 61.5 percent of \$7,300,000 above the current income.

### '1000 DISPLACED PERSONS'

Joseph Barnes, speaking for 100 Warrington township residents, protested against any water project which would make displaced persons of more than 1000 citizens of his community.

Discussing the Wallpack Bend project, now favored by City Council, James H. Allen, executive secretary and chief engineer of the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, said that the State of New Jersey was "ready and willing to share the cost and operating expense of Wallpack" and that a Pennsylvania-New Jersey water contract "be approved by both State Legislatures at their next sessions."

## Mayor Samuel's Constructive Plan

When Bernard Samuel took the oath of office yesterday as Mayor of Philadelphia for a full term he accepted one of the heaviest responsibilities ever placed upon a new executive.

The job of Mayor the next four years will be no picnic. A period of wartime strain will be followed by that of post-war readjustment, with its employment problem for those returning from military service and those now engaged in war industry. Clamoring for attention, too, will be multitudes of public improvements long needed by this city and long withheld.

It is good to know that Mayor Samuel is not only conscious of the magnitude of the job ahead but is prepared to attack it in a practical way. He has a blue-print for action already laid out. He presented it in his inaugural message and it shapes up as a sensible, constructive plan.

Two agencies will handle the details, the already-at-work City Planning Commission and a separate Commission soon to be appointed for the specific task of studying new water sources for Philadelphia.

Water supply, denominated by Mayor Samuel as the Number One Project, is to be brought at last out of the cedar-chest after years of procrastination. The incoming administration is going to work on it.

The sewage-disposal project is also to be whipped into final shape, ready for action the minute manpower and equipment are freed for the work.

These two improvements rightly top the list, but Mr. Samuel's schedule is not confined to them by any means. He looks ahead to a great system of highway betterments, to the completion and extension of high-speed transit lines, to the removal of the "Chinese Wall" and to the addition of new parks, playgrounds and institutional buildings.

It is noteworthy that all these projects were urged by Inquirer readers in the recent symposium. That survey revealed the public's intense interest in needed improvements. Mr. Samuel's inaugural message shows the importance he places upon getting those improvements under way.

The Mayor is in an exceptionally fortunate position. He has his own wide experience in municipal matters to rely upon. He has the co-operation of a large Councilmanic majority elected on the same ticket with him. He has the good-will of Philadelphia citizens, who kept him at the Mayor's desk by a large vote plurality and who wish him every success.

He told the people yesterday, as he brought his address to a close, that he holds that "Government is a trust . . . created for the benefit of the people." That is a solid foundation for any public administration. Standing firmly on that, he can't go wrong.

## Break Stops Supply Of Water Downtown

(Continued From Page 1)

finally expanded into a swirling stream which, city officials said, lifted curbstones four inches into the air.

Children had a picnic in the water and one resourceful Negro boy, about 12, set up a plank bridge on stones across flooded Strawberry Street, charging "customers" three cents to cross.

Many downtown restaurants feared they would have to close before the noon lunch hour because water pressure was so low. It was difficult to wash dishes and make coffee.

Most of them, however, remained open, although in some cases patrons were served one glass of drinking water.

### Supply Is Diverted

What water there was in the Law-reperville and Downtown districts was coming in principally through a main over the Point Bridge and another under the Allegheny River at Twenty-seventh St.

Water was diverted into these mains by the City after the break was spotted.

Also unaffected was the main over the Tenth St. Bridge which feeds water primarily to the outer Fifth Ave. area.

Many housewives were forced to forgo cooking. Hundreds of homes and business establishments were unable to use lavatory facilities, but the City Health Department said it did not fear any health hazard would arise.

### Fire Engines Checked

Meanwhile, the Fire Department prepared for any emergency by checking booster tanks to be sure they were full of capacity.

Fire Chief William H. Davis explained that trucks carry 100-gallon booster tanks and that, in event of fire, alarms will be sounded for additional trucks if the lowering of the initial call should be close to exhausting their supplies.

Chief Davis explained that a shuttle service of fire trucks could be instituted if necessary, whereby one group of trucks would fight the fire while another replenished its booster tanks by drawing water directly from the rivers.

### Break Not Found

The water main is about four feet underground but workers were having difficulty in finding exactly where the break had occurred. Pending that, the city refused to specify a possible cause for the break.

Managing Engineer J. H. Kennon of the Bureau of Water Aid the water pressure at the city's gauge at Thirtieth St. and Liberty Ave. dropped from a normal 100 pounds to 30 pounds within hours.



# REALTORS OPPOSE RENT TO FINANCE SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Mayor Doubts City Could Offset Levy by Cutting Real Estate Tax

By EDWARD STONE

Sewage disposal is all well and good—but let the other fellow pay for it.

Such was the view objectors expressed at a public hearing before City Council's Finance Committee in City Hall yesterday.

Before the committee was the proposed sewer rent, amounting in most cases to 90 percent of water rents, advocated by the city Administration to provide carrying charges on the city's \$42,000,000 sewage disposal program.

**Samuel Springs Surprise**

At the outset, Mayor Bernard Samuel sprang a surprise by disclosing in a message that—contrary to prior expectation—the Administration does not necessarily plan to offset the new rent, scheduled to begin in part in 1945, by a real estate tax cut.

Citing the steady fall in municipal revenues, the Mayor wrote: "There is a grave question whether we should deplete other sources of revenue to offset the cost of an undertaking which should finance itself. This should be determined, however, when the 1945 budget is in course of preparation."

**Favors Higher Wage Tax**

Most violent objector was Charles J. Mitchell, speaking for the Philadelphia Real Estate Board.

"We're for the plan—but we think this bill is not equitable," Mitchell said. "I don't care what you call this rent—it's a tax on real estate. It will amount eventually to \$6,000,000 a year. That is 15 percent of the present tax burden."

"As you increase taxes, you force down the values of taxable real estate. We must halt declining real estate values. The fairest tax we have is the wage tax. Raise that another 1 percent, and you'll raise the whole \$42,000,000 in two years. Or else impose a sales tax or a personal property tax."

"In other words, you want anybody but the real estate owner to pay," drily commented Finance Chairman L. Wallace Egan, presiding at the hearing.

"Not from his selfish aspect, but from your own," Mitchell replied.

**Wholesale Rates Urged**

For the Citizens' Sewer Rent Committee, comprising industries using large quantities of water, Attorney J. Warren Brock demanded that the new rent be held to a minimum, and be graded so large users would pay lower rates than small consumers.

Calling also for a "wholesale rate" for large users was George W. Elliott, executive secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade of Philadelphia. Elliott spoke also for the Philadelphia Development Committee and other business groups.

Judson F. Vogdes, Jr., director of the Pennsylvania Economy League's Philadelphia Committee, proposed use of present water rents to carry part of the sewage disposal debt, and limiting new charges to the proposed new debt. He suggested also setting up a Water Commission to fix water and sewage treatment rates.

**Assaults City's Plan**

Hudson W. Reed, president of

the Philadelphia Gas Works Company, supported the latter suggestion. Assailing the city's plan, he said it would add \$44,000 a year to the gas company's operating costs. That cost eventually would have to be passed on to gas consumers, he said.

Council's lone Democrat, Eugene J. Hagerty, whose sewer rent ordinance of last May died in committee, interjected a plea for prompt action.

"We're moving as rapidly as possible," replied Egan. He announced another hearing for March 9.

# BASIN DREDGED BY NEW METHOD

Remains in Operation While 27 Years' Mud Is Sucked Out

Some 420,000 cubic yards of mud were removed from the sedimentation basin of the Torresdale pumping station while the basin remained in operation, it was revealed yesterday.

The plan was worked out by John H. Neeson, Director of Public Works, and Martin J. McLaughlin, chief of the Water Bureau.

**Usually Take Out of Use**

In such operations, a sedimentation basin usually is taken out of use. Neeson and McLaughlin recognized this would be impossible at Torresdale, which supplies a great part of Philadelphia's drinking water.

So they devised the idea of cleaning out the mud by means of an electric suction dredge while keeping the basin in operation.

The dredge stirred up the silt and mud and then drew the mixture into a large pipe, through which it was pumped to a dumping ground.

**Gap Made in Dike**

The problem was to get the dredge into the bed, which is separated from the Delaware River by a dike. A gap was made in the dike and the dredge floated in, after which the gap was sealed. An electric dredge was decided upon to prevent contamination of the water by oil used in other type dredges.

The winning bid for the job was submitted by the Eastern Engineering Company, of Atlantic City.

The mud and silt removed represented an accumulation of 27 years, according to a spokesman for that company.

# Better Water Is High on List

Additional details of the City Planning Commission's six-year city-betterment program, which calls for the expenditure of \$385,000,000 for "the progressive development of a greater Philadelphia," were announced yesterday.

The program, submitted to Mayor Bernard Samuel by Edward Hopkinson, Jr., commission chairman, will be presented to City Council on Wednesday. It contains a total of 1108 projects, many of which follow closely recommendations received from citizens in a survey conducted by The Philadelphia Inquirer in 1943.

**604 PROJECTS SELECTED**

Mayor Samuel will not seek approval of all the projects, in line with Mr. Hopkinson's statement that the commission has selected 604 of the total for "definite recommendation" at this time. These entail an expenditure of \$205,600,000.

In releasing details of seven "projects of outstanding importance," the commission said that "the most important and urgent problem confronting the city is the collection and treatment of its sewage."

**SOME WORK DONE**

While some work has been done, "remaining work includes construction of some 57 miles of intercepting and other sewers, extension and rehabilitation of the existing Northeast (sewage-treatment) plant, and construction of the Southwest and Southeast plants," the report said.

Plans for the 23 projects within the sewage-treatment program are about 65 percent complete, it said, adding that "within two months after the end of the war, if men, materials and funds are available, contracts for not less than \$13,000,000 could be let almost immediately." Overall costs of this program were estimated at \$39,600,000.

**WATER 2D ON LIST**

A second important phase of the general program involves waterworks rehabilitation and extension, "another of the city's most urgent and most generally recognized needs."

Highway improvements proposed for the immediate post-war period involve about 55 miles of roads in a joint city-State program costing \$39,550,000, of which the city's share is approximately \$4,000,000.

Two of the "most urgently needed" highway projects, the report states, are adequate approaches to the Delaware River Bridge and construction of an industrial highway entering the city via Essington and Penrose aves., and extending as a skyway along the Delaware as far as the Northeast section of the city.

**MARKET ST. SUBWAY**

"Most important" of the commission's high-speed transportation proposals, the report says, is completion of the Market st. subway extension from west of 20th st. to near 42d st., at an estimated cost of \$24,490,000. This, it adds, is "essential to the full utilization of the 30th St. Station."

In another "project of outstanding importance" the commission alludes to the proposed joint Federal-city spending of \$8,275,000 for new buildings, hangars, runways and other facilities at the closed Municipal Airport, but says decision must be reserved pending "further studies."

The Northeast Airport, the report asserts, is expected to be completed by the end of 1944, with the expenditure of about \$2,943,000 by the city and the Federal Government. However, it adds, "additional expenditure of an estimated \$2,475,000 will be required to make it a Class A-1 commercial airport."

# City Puts Sewers First In Vast Works Program

## On the City's Side

THE city's sewer rent suit takes on something of the appearance of a public roll call on an important issue. A contest between a single plaintiff and the city as sole defendant would be sufficient to thresh out all the legal issues, but while there may not be a great deal that the numerous intervenors can add to the legal side of the case, there is value in a lineup of forces that shows how the community feels.

Of special interest are the 30 intervenors on the city's side, defending the sewer rent plan before the Court.

Members of these intervening organizations will help in one way or another to pay the sewage disposal costs, no matter what plan is used to distribute them. They realize this, but realize also the urgent need to have some plan on the books for financing sewage disposal when it again becomes possible to proceed with actual construction.

They can defend the plan now under review with easier consciences than two previous plans vetoed by the Courts. It, too, may be found wanting, but it goes far in the direction the city has been told it must go.

That the city should have the support of 30 intervenors is impressive evidence of deep concern for Philadelphia's progress.

## Wise Planning for City Needs

A forward-looking, large-scale improvement program for Philadelphia post-war undertaking is presented by the City Planning Commission in its first annual report.

Such a program will be of great help in the period immediately following cessation of the war. It will not only supplement the efforts of private industry to provide employment, but will make available numerous public improvements which have been denied us because of financial and other factors.

It is the Planning Commission's belief that a detailed program should be ready and waiting for us whenever labor and materials are ready. That is sensible planning and it will avert hasty, hit-or-miss attempts to whip a program into shape at the last minute.

At the head of the list of recommended projects the Commission places, of course, those Number One essentials, sewage disposal and water supply improvements. Preliminary action on the first of these is currently being taken by Council in drafting a sewer-rent formula. It is none too soon, surely, to get moving on the water project.

There are other desirable items on the Commission's schedule: improved rubbish collection and street cleaning services, a modernized highway system, completion of high-speed transit lines, reclamation of blighted areas, provision for airport facilities and more recreational opportunities.

These are useful public improvements. The Commission is performing a service in centering official attention upon them. Its further development of its planning activities will be watched with interest.

# Post-War Work Here To Cost 300 Million

Philadelphia has forwarded to the Federal Works Administration in Washington a summary of post-war projects contemplating the expenditure of nearly \$300,000,000, city officials declared last night.

The program was cited to refute a report by the agency to a special House Committee on Post-War Planning which claimed that Philadelphia lagged far behind other large cities of the country in scheduling post-war public works projects.

**CALLED RIDICULOUS**

A statement in the FWA report that Philadelphia had completed two plans calling for the expenditure of \$14,656 was called "positively ridiculous" by Director of Public Works John H. Neeson.

"Early in August we sent to the Federal Works Agency a summary of projects in the 'design' stage and others well beyond the 'idea' stage which contemplate an expenditure of close to \$300,000,000," Director Neeson stated.

**PROJECTS LISTED**

In summarizing contemplated post-war projects, for Philadelphia, Mr. Neeson included plans for \$18,000,000 for water works improvements; 75 percent of \$42,000,000 for sewage treatment; between \$6,000,000 and \$8,000,000 for storm water relief drainage; \$2,500,000 for secondary bridges, in addition to im-

# Mayor Opposes Tax Cut To Offset Sewer Rent

Wants Other Levies to Stay

## Heat Plus City Neglect Cause of Water Shortage

City officials are sounding their regular summer dirge.

Additional demands due to the heat wave threaten a breakdown in our wheezing, dirt-clogged, patched-up water system.

It's an old plaintive song. And way off key. The heat wave, indeed!

It's been hot in New York city, too. But there's no shortage of water there to supply homes and war industries. What's more, it's cool, gushing, mountain-pure water—something Philadelphians know only by hearsay.

New York planned its water supply to meet all needs for generations ahead. It drilled the Delaware Aqueduct, an engineering marvel 85 miles long, to tap the headwaters of the Delaware River.

It went after new sources, will spend \$325,000,000 to complete its program.

On the one hand is New York city with an abundance of pure water.

On the other is Philadelphia with a critical shortage of what, at best, is a third-rate brew.

Why the shocking contrast?

New York planned progressively, went to work efficiently to make that plan a reality.

Philadelphia, shackled by the City Hall machine, stewed in do-nothingness. It isn't necessary to look further than the Torresdale Filtration Plant for the tipoff.

The sedimentation basin at Torresdale hasn't been cleaned since it was built 28 years ago. And as a result the capacity of the plant, which supplies all of South Philadelphia and the entire area between Broad st. and the Delaware, has been cut in half.

That's one answer. And there's another answer in pollution of the Schuylkill, which the GOP State Administrations over the years did nothing to halt. There are the frequent water main breaks. And there was the delay of the city administration in getting the projected \$18,000,000 water rehabilitation program into operation. The war came along and then it was too late.

City officials now ask the public to use water sparingly. *We must do it.* There is no other choice. The continued supply to homes and key war industries hinges on it.

But let's not make the old mistakes again.

**We must plan for a completely adequate pure water system as a postwar project.**

The city must seek new water sources, to supplant the Schuylkill and Delaware. Regardless of purification programs, they could not be depended on for pure water for generations to come.

We need to strike out with vision. New York has set an example we should follow.

**Here is a job—a pressing job—for our City Planning Commission. It should have a plan blueprinted, ready when peace comes.**

It's a postwar project second to none.

Mayor Samuel yesterday announced his opposition at this time to any reduction in the real estate tax or water rent to offset the proposed new sewer tax.

In a communication to City Council's Finance Committee, meeting for the second time in a public discussion of the proposed sewer rent ordinance, the Mayor said.

"There is a grave question whether we should deplete other sources of revenue to offset the cost of an undertaking which would finance itself."

"This should be determined when the 1945 budget is in the course of preparation. At that time facts and figures will be available throwing light on the over-all picture of next year's requirements and estimated revenue from all available sources."

**\$3,600,000 IN 1945**

The Mayor estimated that the new sewer levy, to finance a \$42,000,000 improvement program, will yield \$3,600,000 next year and \$8,000,000 in 1949 when the program is in full operation. The ordinance provides for the imposition of a sewer levy of 54 percent in 1945, and going up to 90 percent in 1949, the charge based on consumption of water.

Hudson W. Reed, president of the Philadelphia Gas Work Co., a city-owned company, said the levy would impose an additional burden of \$44,000 annually on the company, which will have to be passed on to household users of gas. He said he approved the levy in principle.

**OFFERS NEW PLAN**

Judson F. Vogdes, Jr., director of the Philadelphia Committee of the Pennsylvania Economy League, offered an alternate method of obtaining the necessary borrowing capacity to finance the construction of sewage treatment plants and suggested the appointment of a Water Commission with rate-fixing powers similar to those of the Gas Commission.

Mr. Vogdes recommended that the \$11,000,000 of authorized, but unused, bonds for water improvements be eliminated from debt service calculations and the money be used for sewage treatment. He contended his plan, which calls for a sewage treatment charge, would cost the taxpayers about one-half as much as the ordinance before the committee.

**OPOSED BY SCHWARTZ**

This view was opposed by Herman N. Schwartz, assistant city solicitor, who declared:

"You simply can't mix water and sewage treatment under the State Supreme Court decision excluding the city's investment in the water system from the general debt."

Charles J. Mitchell, chairman of the Philadelphia Real Estate Board's Committee on City and County Affairs, suggested that the imposition of an additional one percent wage tax or general sales tax would provide enough money to finance the sewer program. He said the sewer rent was a real estate tax increase in disguise and would impose a 15 percent tax increase on the people.

The Citizens Sewer Rent Committee, composed largely of representatives of the laundry, dyeing and textile trades, presented a report urging a graduated scale of rates, which will "avoid penalizing industries, trades and businesses now located in Philadelphia."



## SEWER RENT PLAN 'DISCRIMINATORY,' EXPERT DECLARES

But Witness Admits  
Charge Based on Water  
Use Is Fair

Philadelphia cannot have a fair sewer rent until all its 460,000 properties using water are metered, Prof. William S. Pardoe, of the University of Pennsylvania, declared at a City Hall hearing yesterday.

Pointing out that only 225,000 properties have meters, Pardoe declared an \$8 minimum rate for metered as against a \$15 minimum for nonmetered properties is inequitable and discriminatory. The proposed sewer rent, based on water rates, would be equally unfair, he said.

### Sole Witness in Suit

Testifying as an expert hydraulic engineer, Pardoe was the sole witness yesterday in an equity suit before Judge Gerald F. Flood in Common Pleas Court No. 6 to halt the new levy, designed to finance the city's \$42,000,000 project to end its pollution of its rivers.

In cross-examination, however, City Solicitor Frank F. Truscott scored a point in defense of the new rent when he brought out that property owners have the privilege of installing water meters, though not forced to do so. "Even if metered, though," Pardoe insisted, "the rent would be inequitable because so few people use the amount of water they are allowed under the minimum charges."

Pardoe also said: "I admit that the principle of basing sewer charges on water use is fair."

### City Defeated Twice

The city has failed in two other efforts to devise a "sewer rent" that will pass legal muster. The two prior rents, based in whole or in part on real estate assessments, were ruled out by the State Supreme Court as being disguised real estate taxes. The new and third rent, ranging from 50 to 100 percent of water charges, is under attack by a taxpayer, by the Philadelphia Real Estate Board, by five neighborhood realty associations and by the United Businessmen's Association.

## Post-War City Projects may Provide 120 Million Man-Hours of Jobs

A vast reservoir of jobs—120,000,000 man-hours of employment to cushion workers against the let-down from war activity—was envisioned today as one possible result of adoption of the City Planning Commission's program for a bigger and better Philadelphia.

Announced yesterday by Mayor Samuel with the comment that the city will support the recommendations to the limit of its financial resources, the \$385,203,718 program is intended to be carried out in large measure between 1945 and 1950, inclusive. It calls for completion of these projects first:

1. Sewage collection and treatment.
2. Waterworks rehabilitation.
3. City-State highway program.
4. Removal of the so-called "Chinese wall," extension of the Mar-

ket st. subway to 42d st., at a cost of \$24,490,000; full development of the 30th St. Station facilities.

### 1,108 Projects on List

There are other projects—1,108 in all, including eventual erection of 16 new schools, work on the port and the building of a \$17,000,000 vehicular tunnel under the Delaware River. Of the construction projects there were 604 which the committee definitely recommended for quick action at an estimated cost of \$205,600,000.

The six-year summary was the first such report from the commission, of which Edward Hopkinson, Jr., is chairman. Under the ordinance by which it was created, the committee will submit annual reports in the future, each to cover a six-year period.

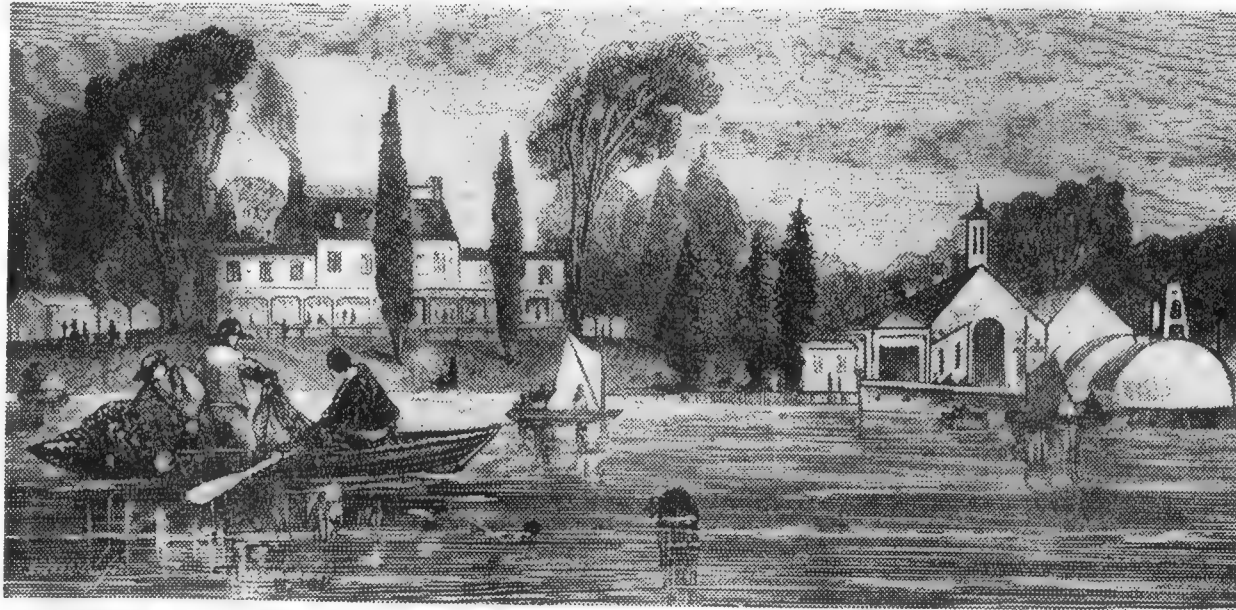
(Continued on Page Four, Column Five)

# PHILADELPHIA RECORD

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1944

SECOND SECTION

## Sewage a Fragrant Problem Since 1907



ABOUT 100 YEARS AGO it was possible to catch live fish in the Delaware at Tacony. Now the only fish in the river have been dead so long they add to the stench.

### By LEEDS MOBERLEY

"The most important and urgent problem confronting the city is the collection and treatment of its sewage."

So declares the City Planning Commission in the report transmitting its first public improvements program to City Council—a preliminary schedule of projects recommended for development during the next six years.

"At the present time," the report continues, "the city discharges into the Delaware River at numerous points south of the Northeast sewage treatment works (at Wheatstheaf la.) and into the Schuylkill River below Fairmount Dam a daily average of 400,000,000 gallons of sewage, of which more than 80 percent does not receive even primary treatment."

### DANGEROUS CONDITIONS

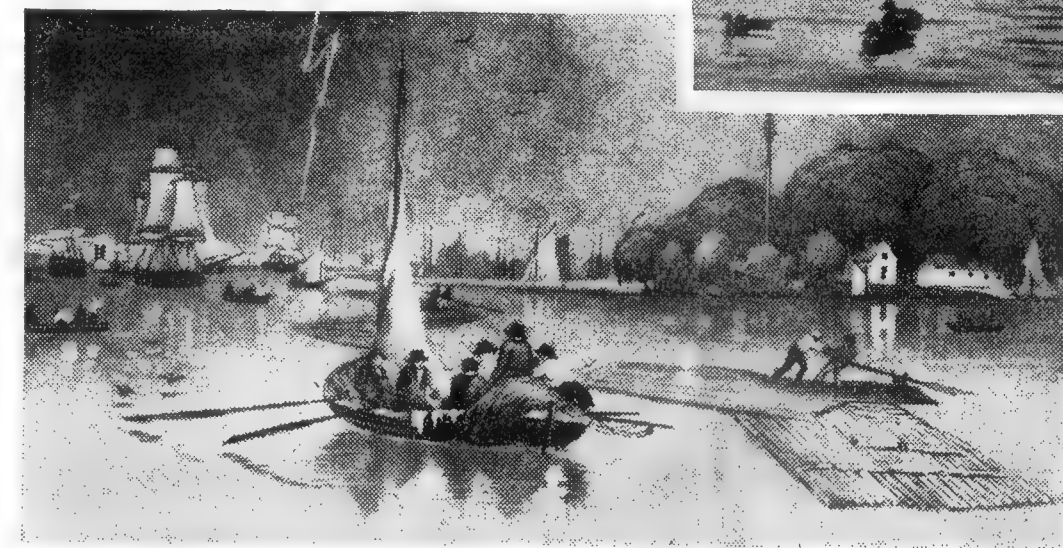
"This situation does not result in pollution of the city's own water supply, because of the protection already provided at the Northeast plant. However, it does produce evil-smelling, unsanitary and sometimes dangerous conditions in the principal watercourses of the city, with serious effects on the welfare of Philadelphia and on the commerce of the port."

"The protection already provided" at the Northeast plant doesn't amount to much; only a fraction of the sewage handled there is treated and the rest is dumped raw into the river. For all the commission's optimism on that point, many authorities declare that at low-water periods the incoming tide undoubtedly carries sewage upstream to the Torresdale intake.

But there is no disagreement about the other, "evil-smelling, unsanitary and sometimes dangerous" conditions which have converted our two rivers into open sewers and our port into a cesspool.

### FISH CAN'T LIVE

Some of the older Philadelphians may remember the days when there was a big catch of



TRAFFIC JAMS on the river were common between here and Camden during the early days of the last century. Now shipowners complain that the water is so bad it damages the hulls of their vessels.

shad every year in the Delaware, but no fish can live in water that is so polluted it makes battleships turn green around the gills.

The port is busy now because of the war. The stuff has to move and Philadelphia has the facilities to move it—belt line railroads, good piers, easy accessibility, excellent loading equipment, efficient organization, an adequate and well-lighted channel.

The port, in fact, has everything except water fit for a ship to float in. Freshwater ports ordinarily are highly regarded by shipping men because a ship's hull does not become fouled with barnacles in fresh water—and because there is an unlimited source of fresh water for the boilers.

### WATER HAZARD

But nobody would dare pump Delaware River water into his boilers. Just the gases released by the putrefying sewage change the color of a ship's paint, corrode the exposed metal work

and nauseate men working around the waterfront. The chemicals in the water will eat through the plates of the hull in time.

The port is handling more than double its supposed capacity now (tonnage figures are a military secret) and the Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade, through its merchant marine committee, is working on a program to keep it humming—and expand its business further—after the war.

It's a salesmanship job, a job of convincing shippers of Philadelphia's advantages, including the close link with Baltimore (now a favored port) through the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, which was finished only four years ago. For that reason, the committee lists correction of pollution as the port's greatest need.

As George E. Bartol, president of the Bourse and chairman of the committee, observes: A shipowner will bring his vessel in here now if there is a

cargo to pick up—but he will do it reluctantly."

### FREE PORT AREA

Bartol's committee also is studying the desirability of establishing a free port area in Philadelphia, building a union terminal for trucks with waterfront cargo and the creation of a Port Authority for public control of the waterfront.

The State Postwar Planning Commission also is undertaking a study of port needs—including Erie and Pittsburgh as well as Philadelphia.

The City Planning Commission recommends the completion of Pier 80, at the foot of Snyder ave., on which the city spent \$1,300,000 before the depression and which will require \$2,650,000 to finish. Other projects for port development are left for further study.

Cleaning up the rivers will not only be a boon to the port—it also will open the way for general beautification of the waterfront and even the use of both the Delaware and the Schuylkill for pleasure boating.



IN 1857, ducks used to paddle in the Delaware, as this old photograph shows. Now no self-respecting duck would be caught within a mile of the stream of his own free will.

fishing and even swimming.

Philadelphia is not the only city dumping sewage into the rivers, but is the worst offender and has been in no position to insist that other communities stop polluting the streams which provide its water supply. The State Sanitary Water Board recently ordered an end of the dumping of coal mine wastes into the Schuylkill, but generally the cleanup job has waited on Philadelphia.

### PROBLEM SINCE 1907

Philadelphia has been dallying with the sewage disposal problem since 1907. A start was made on the construction of intercepting sewers in 1916 and approximately 50 miles have been built. But it took prodding by the State; and finally in 1922 the city made an agreement to spend \$3,000,000 a year on sewage disposal work.

It fell behind in 1929, and has done no construction since. It will take about \$39,600,000 to finish what needs to be done—extension and rehabilitation of the Northeast plant, construction of the Southwest and Southeast plants, on the lower Schuylkill and Delaware, respectively, together with construction of 57 miles of intercepting and other sewers.

Plans are about 65 percent completed and Mayor Samuel is counting on a start of construction the moment materials and manpower are made available after the end of the war in Europe.

Third of a series. Tomorrow's article on plans for hospitals, parks and playgrounds will appear on another page of The Record.

## 30 Groups Aid City in Sewer Suit

Support Given  
To Rental Plan

More than 30 civic, professional and business groups yesterday came to the support of the city in a taxpayers' suit attacking the constitutionality of the sewer rent ordinance passed last April 20.

Hearing in the case, which opened yesterday before Judge Gerald F. Flood in Common Pleas Court No. 6, Room 696, City Hall, is on a suit in equity seeking to restrain the City of Philadelphia from putting the ordinance in effect.

### SEWER RENTAL PLAN

The various groups were permitted by the Court to intervene to aid the city in its fight for the measure which would provide a sewer rental plan to raise approximately \$42,000,000 to finance a sewage-disposal program to relieve pollution in the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers.

Plaintiffs in the action are John J. Gerick, 2537 S. 16th st., a Federal employee, the Philadelphia Real Estate Board, five real estate organizations and the United Business Men's Association.

### TESTIMONY BARRED

The plaintiffs in the suit are being represented by J. Wesley McWilliams while City Solicitor Frank F. Truscott is arguing the case for the defendants, including Mayor Bernard Samuel and other city officials.

Testimony of W. Sprague Pardoe, professor of hydraulics of the University of Pennsylvania, regarding a number of tests he had made with various sizes of water pipes, ferrules and meters was ordered stricken from the record by Judge Flood who sustained an objection of Mr. Truscott.

### DEFENSE OBJECTED

The Court ruled out testimony about the tests on the defense's objection that the sizes of pipes and meters used did not conform with existing ordinances.

Mr. Pardoe also testified that there could be no equitable sewer rates unless the entire city was metered 100 percent on water. He also told the court that the new sewer rent would be based on the amount of water bills now rendered but there would be no direct relationship between the new sewer bills and the quantity of water supplied.

### AIDED BY DUFF

Mr. Truscott is being aided as intervenor by State's Attorney General James H. Duff, by Ellwood J. Turner, who filed an appearance for the Interstate Commission of the Delaware River Basin, and by James Allen Montgomery, Jr., who intervened in support of 23 civic organizations.

The Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce also intervened as a defendant, as did Judge Grover C. Lahner in behalf of the Schuylkill River Valley Restoration Association and the Philadelphia Boosters.



# City Projects to Give Jobs to Vast Number

(Continued from the First Page)

Discussing possible development of a new water supply, the commission reported that it was "not prepared at this time to recommend the inclusion of such a project in the public-improvement program." The commission explained that the Mayor intends to name a commission to make a thorough survey of sites and previous recommendations, concerning new sources.

## Extent of Lag Uncertain

"Immediately after the end of the war there probably will be a serious unemployment problem or lag until private industry can be converted to peacetime production," the commission said. "How extensive such employment will be, and how long it will continue, cannot be predicted with certainty. However, there appears to be no doubt that a substantial amount of employment will have to be provided, at least temporarily.

"One of the quickest ways to provide employment is the construction of public works. Expenditures for labor on the site average nearly two-thirds of the cost, and analysis of the cost of materials has shown that as much as 90 per cent may go ultimately for labor. Both skilled and unskilled workers are required."

## The report continues:

"Among recommended projects, the sewage treatment, waterworks-rehabilitation and City-State highway programs have been given priority. Plans and specifications are completed for improvements estimated to cost \$23,800,000.

"Work could proceed immediately on these projects, which would provide an estimated 5,700,000 man-hours of labor. Additional plans and specifications in process on these projects can be completed so that construction work estimated to cost \$36,600,000 and to provide about 11,253,000 man-hours of employment could begin in the spring of 1945.

## Others Feasible Later On

"Thus, a program of recommended urgent public improvements involving the expenditure of some \$60,000,000 and providing almost 16,954,000 man-hours could be started immediately after the end of the war or within six months thereafter.

"There are, in addition, a considerable number of recommended projects for which the financing has not been arranged but for which plans and specifications are completed or could be completed within six months. Included in these projects are flood-relief, additional sewers and drainage, highway bridges, projects related to railroad terminal improvements, grade crossing eliminations, street paving and repaving, elimination of dead ends in the water distribution system, reconditioning of water mains, and other miscellaneous improvements.

"Approximately \$15,900,000 of such work is now ready to start and would furnish 4,052,000 man-hours of employment. An additional \$18,435,000 of such work could be ready within six months, and would provide 5,712,000 man-hours of employment.

"Projects for repairs, replacements and minor construction offer an excellent opportunity to employ labor quickly, and in most instances do not require extensive plans and specifications. The projects for maintenance work submitted to the commission, which represent only a part of the total accumulated need, would provide an estimated 5,000,000 man-hours of employment.

"Work on most of these projects could begin immediately after the end of the war, provided funds were available. There is little doubt that an exhaustive survey of needed re-

pairs, replacements and minor construction would increase the total estimate of man-hours by not less than 5,000,000."

The report included a disclosure of plans under consideration by a special committee of the Board of Public Education and covering 188 projects, estimated to cost \$37,025,000.

The Board's program is analyzed as follows:

For enlarging 57 school playgrounds where present facilities are inadequate, \$3,516,000; for new auditoriums, gymnasiums, playrooms, classrooms and other alterations and additions to 38 schools, \$5,200,000; for new plumbing, heating, additional showers and lockers in 23 schools, and for adapting 42 school buildings to community use, a total of \$2,085,000; for new buildings and sites, \$22,624,000; and for miscellaneous items, \$3,600,000.

## New Buildings Planned

The new buildings and sites under consideration, and exclusive of replacements, are:

Central city—One junior high school, one vocational high school, one athletic field, and a central recreation building.

West Philadelphia—Two elementary schools, one junior high school, one vocational school and four athletic fields.

North Philadelphia—One elementary school, two junior high schools and two athletic fields.

South Philadelphia—One elementary school, one senior high school.

Northeast Philadelphia—Three elementary schools, one vocational school, one senior high school.

The school program under consideration is based on the assumption that Federal aid would be available.

## Sewage Problem Most Urgent

"The most important and urgent problem confronting the city is the collection and treatment of its sewage," the commission reported. "At the present time the city discharges into the Delaware River a daily average of 400,000,000 gallons of sewage, of which more than 80 per cent does not receive even primary treatment.

"This situation does not result in pollution of the city's own water supply, because of the protection already provided at the Northeast plant. However, it does produce evil-smelling, unsanitary and sometimes dangerous conditions in the principal water courses of the city.

## Rehabilitation of Water Works

On waterworks rehabilitation, the report stated:

"Before the present City Planning Commission was created, the city had employed consulting engineers to advise concerning the improvements to be undertaken, and the voters had approved an \$18,000,000 loan. However, scarcity of labor and materials has made it impossible to carry out all of the program for improvements to treatment plants and the distribution system and for extension of water mains into newly developed areas. Fortunately, with the aid of measures to reduce waste of water, the water-supply system has managed to meet the heavy additional demands imposed upon it by the increase in population and the intensified industrial activities brought by the war.

"The waterworks rehabilitation project has been included in the 1945-50 public-improvement program and the City Planning Commission recommends that it be completed as expeditiously as possible. Since financing of the project already has been arranged, there

should be no delay due to lack of funds."

As for highway improvements, the report stated:

"A far-reaching program for improvement of city streets and highways has been proposed for the immediate post-war period, when the lifting of existing restrictions on motor-vehicle production and gasoline consumption will make quite apparent the need for more and better thoroughfares. Improvement of highways will be a particularly advantageous type of construction for this critical period because few strategic or prefabricated materials are required.

"Outstanding among the proposed highway improvements is the city-state highway improvement program, to be carried out jointly by the city and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This work is estimated to cost \$39,550,000 of which the city's share would be approximately \$4,000,000.

Originally the program was scheduled to extend over five years, but it can be rescheduled for completion within three years, if conditions warrant, without exceeding the \$12,000,000 annual expenditure which the Commonwealth is authorized to make in Philadelphia under the act of July 10, 1941."

The commission reported that the total length of the highways recommended for improvement is about 55 miles. Two of the most urgently needed projects, among the many included in the program, are provision of adequate approaches to the Philadelphia-Camden bridge, and construction of the low-gradient industrial highway entering the city by way of Essington and Penrose ays., and its proposed extension as a skyway, bordering or paralleling the Delaware River to an outlet in the northeast.

## Market St. Subway Extension

"Most important of the high-speed transportation proposals, because of its strategic relationship to the future development of the central city area, is completion of the Market Street Subway extension from west of 20th st. to near 42d st.

"The section from 24th st. to 32d st., including the tunnel under the Schuylkill River, already has been constructed. Completion of the entire line, ready for operation, is estimated to cost \$24,490,000.

After discussing a \$182,510,000 project for completing the concourse under and around City Hall and a \$210,000 project for purchase and installation of sump pumps for the North Broad Street Subway, the report continued:

"The largest area requiring new or additional transit facilities is in Northeast Philadelphia. However, the provision of new facilities in this section must be co-ordinated with the highway program and with general development of the area."

## N. E. Airport Work \$2,475,000

For the improvement of the Municipal Airport, the construction of new buildings, hangars, runways and other facilities was proposed at an estimated \$8,275,000, including cost to the city of \$2,519,000.

For Northeast airport, an estimated \$2,475,000 will be required to make it a class A-1 commercial airport even after completion of the present construction project there.

The commission declared to be of first importance the removal of the Chinese Wall, which would be

followed by the removal of the Old Broad Street Station.

It discussed accomplishments so far flowing from the agreement of 1925 to which the city and the Pennsylvania and Baltimore & Ohio railroads were parties, and the remaining steps that were called for in that agreement, including the construction of Pennsylvania Boulevard on the line of Filbert st. from 15th st. to the 30th Street Station, including a bridge over the Schuylkill River and the widening of intersecting streets between Market and Cuthbert sts.

"In the light of subsequent developments, certain changes in the program may prove desirable, and studies preliminary to negotiations for necessary revision of the agreement are now under way.

"It is estimated that the city projects still to be completed under the new program will cost not less than \$36,807,000, of which approximately two-thirds will be required for completion of the Market Street Subway extension and the balance for highway and bridge construction."

## River Transportation

Concerning the proposed tunnel, the report had this to say: "An important consideration in planning for the metropolitan area, as a whole, is the provision of adequate transportation across the Delaware River."

The proposed tunnel, between Gloucester County, N. J., and Delaware County, Pa., south of the Philadelphia Municipal Airport, will provide a by-pass around Philadelphia for traffic from Washington to New York City and from Pennsylvania to the New Jersey shore, in addition to increasing the accessibility of air services to New Jersey residents.

The commission recommends an early start on the completion of Pier 80 at the foot of Snyder av.

Director of Public Works John H. Neeson is vice chairman of the commission, other members of which are Joseph F. Burke, Gordon R. Exley, Roy A. Heymann, William A. Kelley, William H. Loesche, Raymond MacNeille, D. Robert Yarnall.

Robert B. Mitchell is executive director, Charles A. Howland, chief of the projects division, and Herman N. Schwartz, counsel.

## 2 EXPERTS BACK SEWER RENT PLAN

Engineers Testify City's Proposal Is 'Fair and Reasonable'

Read editorial, "Time to End City Version of the Farmer's Wife."

Two engineering experts defended yesterday as "fair and reasonable" the sewer rent proposed by the city to finance its \$42,000,000 sewage-disposal project.

The experts testifying for the city in answer to a taxpayer's suit to halt the levy were Nathan B. Jacobs, of Pittsburgh, consulting engineer to the Philadelphia Department of Public Works, and Samuel A. Greeley, Chicago hydraulic and sanitary engineer.

## Suit Attacks Proposal

The rent, which would range from 50 to 100 percent of water bills, is under legal attack as discriminatory before Judge Gerald F. Flood in Common Pleas Court No. 6. Joining with the taxpayer, John J. Gericke, are seven real estate and other organizations. Defending with the city are 28 civic groups which have intervened.

# Ben Franklin Knew City's Need of Better Water; Made Provision in Will but Estate Lacked Cash

By LEEDS MOBERLEY

Benjamin Franklin, who pioneered in so many assorted fields of activity, was one of the first to recognize that Philadelphia's drinking water was bad.

When the public-spirited High st. printer drew up his will in 1789, he included a bequest of \$100,000 for damming the Wissahickon as a new source of supply and outlined a plan for piping it into the city by gravity flow.

Unfortunately, his far-sighted benefaction turned out to be only a gesture. When he died the following year his estate was so shrunken there was no money to carry out the bequest.

But most of Franklin's contemporaries were unperturbed. To them the notion that the clear, cold water that came from their wells might be contaminated seemed ridiculous—until a series of epidemics struck the city.

## First Waterworks Built

By 1797 there was so much reversal of feeling that City Councils, spurred by petitions "signed by an unprecedented number of respectable citizens," engaged Benjamin Henry Latrobe, an outstanding engineer of that day, to study the practicability of obtaining a water supply within a reasonable distance of the city.

The result was the erection of the city's first waterworks—a pumping plant on the Schuylkill River at Chestnut st., which pumped water to a "receiving fountain," an architectural hodgepodge of marble located in Center Square—the present site of City Hall.

The building, because of its circular form, was known familiarly as "The Pepper Box." A steam engine, made mostly of wood, pumped the water into huge wooden tanks at the top, and from there it flowed by gravity through

## Finished in 1801

The waterworks, ultra-modern in its day, for all its crudity by present standards, was completed in 1801. It might have been finished sooner but for one unhappy mischance.

That was the illness of Nicholas J. Roosevelt, of Passaic, N. J., the engineer who built the steam

pumps and the receiving fountain—whose collateral descendant, Franklin D. Roosevelt, was to describe the Philadelphia water situation 140 years later as "a stench in the nostrils."

Nicholas Roosevelt got sick from drinking Philadelphia water.

## Drank Well-Water

In the interests of historical accuracy it must be emphasized that the potation that so upset Nicholas Roosevelt was not the Schuylkill cocktail that we know now, but the "good" well-water on which the city depended before the waterworks was built.

Today our rivers are polluted by the sewage discharged into them—by us and by the communities upstream. In 1800 there were no sewers; the wells were polluted by the underground drainage of privy vaults but the Schuylkill was clean and pure.

It is hard to look at the foul, oily mess flowing sluggishly through its silt-clogged channel that we know, and realize that the river's beauty was what prompted William Penn to locate his "City of Brotherly Love" here.

## Considered Other Site

Penn had just about made up his mind to lay out his city farther downstream on the Delaware, where Chester now stands, but was persuaded to sail upstream a few miles to the junction of the Schuylkill. "Schuylkill" is the Dutch for "Hidden River," but in those days it didn't mean it was hidden by silt and sewage; it meant it was hidden by League Island when viewed from the Delaware.

At any rate, Penn was so charmed that he promptly changed his plan and located his city at that point. And when the city, a century or so later, turned to the "Hidden River" for its drinking water, the stream was still so clean and pure that the water could be piped directly into homes, without filtering or medication.

## Didn't Stay Pure

But it did not remain that way. For awhile pollution was no problem; the oxygen normally contained in water will cleanse it of a substantial amount of pollution as a river runs along. But before many years the sewage and industrial wastes discharged into

the Schuylkill began to raise the same sort of threat that the privy vaults had presented in the days of the wells.

By 1828 the threat was so serious the Legislature passed the first of a long—but impotent—series of laws intended to safeguard the purity of the Schuylkill. More followed in 1832, 1860, 1861, 1867 and 1871. In 1856 Fairmount Park was created with the idea of preventing industries from setting up on the banks of the river and discharging their wastes into the stream. Unfortunately, whoever fathered that idea overlooked the fact that wastes could be—and would be—discharged farther upstream.

## Delaware Polluted Too

Meanwhile, the city had started drawing water from the Delaware to augment the pumpage from the Schuylkill, and the Delaware was becoming polluted too. By 1866 there was "so much objectionable matter" being drained into both rivers that H. P. M. Birkinbine, who was chief engineer of the Water Department at the time, recommended an entirely new source of supply on the Perkiomen near Ziegler'sville.

But Birkinbine's proposal, like Franklin's of three generations previously, and those of repeated subsequent water commissions, fell on deaf ears. Philadelphia water always has found its defenders, and the Fairmount Park Commission hastened to declare the Schuylkill could be relied upon for many years if properly guarded from pollution.

So Philadelphia continued to draw its water from increasingly polluted sources. And it paid the price in sickness and death, with several typhoid epidemics.

However unpleasant today's "chlorine cocktail" may taste—and even Director of Public Works John H. Neeson admits its "potability and freedom from obnoxious taste and odor can be rightfully questioned"—it is at least free of disease germs; constant laboratory tests and liberal medication see to that.

Now and then the aqueous solution of chlorides, sulphates, alkali, iron, magnesium, lead, copper and zinc that issues from Philadelphia's spigots upsets the surprised digestive mechanism of some visitor who is accustomed to a milder drink.

But both in chemical characteristics and in bacteria count its average is well within the stand-

ards set by the United States Public Health Service.

Last year the city had only four typhoid deaths—a rate of 0.2 per 100,000 of population—and they were not water borne; all were traced to human carriers. But in the 1880's and 1890's the rate went as high as 78.2 per 100,000, and the raw, untreated water was chiefly responsible.

## Epidemic in 1888

The peak was in 1888, when an epidemic of the disease killed off 785 persons out of a total population of 1,036,000. The following year was almost as bad, with 736 deaths.

The typhoid rate tapered off then, dropping to a "low" of 370 deaths (32.5 per 100,000) in 1894. Then it rose to a new high of 947 deaths in 1899, but because the population was up to 1,266,600 by then the rate was only 74.9, so that it was proportionately less severe than the 1878 outbreak.

The furore over the polluted condition of the rivers became so great that City Councils felt impelled to adopt a resolution instructing the Water Department to refrain from further comment on the situation—because it was "giving the city a bad name!"

## Build New Works

But Councils could not silence the typhoid statistics. And in 1902 the city began construction of modern filtration and treatment works. The job was finished in 1913, but even before it was completed the typhoid rate dropped more than 50 percent. And in 1914, the first year of complete treatment, there were only 124 typhoid deaths—or .75 per 100,000 population.

Since then the rate has continued to range downward, with relatively minor fluctuations from year to year.

For the nonce, Philadelphia's waterworks once more was up to date. It hasn't changed much since then; there has been some replacement of equipment but nothing far-reaching. For one thing, there was always talk about some day getting a new source of supply.

And in the meantime the present source has become steadily worse.

This is the first of a series of articles on Philadelphia's perennial No. 1 problem—water. Tomorrow's article will discuss the silt menace and the prospects of its removal.

## Experts Uphold City On Sewer Rate Plan

The plan of City Council to fix flat rates for sewer service to finance construction of sanitary disposal plants in the city was upheld by two sanitation experts as the taxpayer's injunction suit to block the proposal entered its third day in Common Pleas Court No. 6 yesterday.

Nathan B. Jacobs, Pittsburgh sanitary engineer and consulting engineer to the Department of Public Works, and Samuel A. Greeley, Chicago hydraulic and sanitary engineer, of Chicago, testified before Judge Gerald F. Flood that the city's plan embodied in an ordinance is fair, equitable and non-discriminatory.

## OUTLAY OF \$42,000,000

The proposal, which calls for an expenditure of \$42,000,000 to erect plants and provide service to eliminate pollution of the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers, is being opposed by John J. Gericke, of 2537 S. 16th st., a Federal employee, the Philadelphia Real Estate Board, United Business Men's Association, neighborhood and other real estate groups.

Mr. Jacobs also took issue with W. Sprague Pardoe, professor of hydraulics at the University of Pennsylvania, who, in testifying for the litigants on Tuesday, said no equitable rate could be levied unless every property in the city was equipped with a water meter.

## METERING MINIMIZED

"I do not think metering is essential to the fixing of rates," said Mr. Jacobs. "It is desirable, but the meter is not the sole criterion of fair and equitable rates. There must be taken into consideration such matters as investment, taxes, carrying charges and so on. All these elements enter into the meter schedule and not only the quantity of water used."

Mr. Jacobs said that while "some cities are metered, others are not, notably New York and Detroit, which are almost unmetered." Approximately 47 percent of the buildings in this city are metered at present.

Mr. Gericke and the intervening litigants are seeking an injunction against the ordinance on the ground the plan authorized by it will nearly double the present water bills. The litigants contend the city could finance the project without reflecting its cost directly into the water bills.

Philadelphia Water Department  
Historical Collection  
2004.019.0012B



## WATER RENT BASIS AILED AT HEARING

Metering is Not Essential  
to Determine Fair Rate,  
City Engineer Says

Water metering is not an essential factor in determining a fair and equitable water rent, Nathan B. Jacobs, city consulting engineer, testified today at the third day of hearings on the equity suit to determine the validity of the proposed imposition of a sewer rental. The proceedings before Judge Gerald F. Flood, Room 696, City Hall, represent the third attempt to validate a sewer rental in connection with the financing of the city's proposed \$42,000,000 sewage disposal and sewer program. Two other city ordinances have been thrown out by the State Supreme Court.

Jacobs' testimony contradicted that of Professor W. Sprague Pardoe, of the University of Pennsylvania, who testified yesterday for John J. Gericke, complaining taxpayer.

Pardoe had testified it is impossible to have fair and equitable water rents, on which sewer rent is to be based, unless all properties are metered. At present only 47 per cent are metered.

### Calls Metering Desirable

Jacobs conceded that metering of water is highly desirable, from a standpoint of water conservation, but said many other factors enter into the determination of a fair rate. "It is standard practice in large cities," said Jacobs, "to charge both a flat rate for unmetered service and a minimum rate for metered service."

He said even the best meters are not absolutely accurate, and in connection with sewer rents which would be based on a percentage of the water rate rent, declared he never heard of the invention of a satisfactory sewer meter.

Jacobs disagreed with the recommendation of Pardoe that stand-by or service charges included in water rents should be a flat rate based on the actual consumption of water. Such a formula has been ruled out by the Pennsylvania Utility Commission—for use by private companies, Jacobs said. Judge Flood pointed out the P. U. C. does not control the city's rates.

### Calls Allowance too High

Jacobs agreed that the 8,000 cubic feet of water allowed for metered service at the minimum price of \$3 is too much, and said he would recommend that the quantity be reduced. He said the service given justifies this charge, of which \$5 is listed as a service charge. The chief purpose in cutting the minimum water allowance was to conserve water and prevent wastage, Jacobs said.

Samuel A. Greely, of Chicago, a hydraulic and sanitary engineer, said a nationwide study of city water rents shows that the best type of sewer rental for Philadelphia is the proposed percentage of the water rent as set forth in Council's ordinance, enacted April 20.

### Early Charge Denied

When Director John H. Neeson of Public Works was recalled briefly, J. Wesley McWilliams, counsel for Gericke, sought to show that the city would attempt to enforce the new sewer rents before the end of the war, even though the sewage disposal program should be held up. City Solicitor Frank F. Truscott denied this. Truscott told the court the language of the ordinances provides that rent cannot become effective until contracts for the work have been awarded.

Beside Gericke the complainants who have joined the suit as intervenors are the Philadelphia Real Estate Board, represented by Philip Sterling and McWilliams; the North and West Philadelphia Realty Boards, for whom Oscar G. Bender is counsel; South Philadelphia Board, represented by Morris D. Levitt; Germantown board, J. K. Cox.

## Flotation Plant To Remove Silt In Mine Water

Construction of a flotation plant by an anthracite coal company to remove silt from its waste waters was announced today by the Pennsylvania State Department of Commerce in its weekly compilation of new and expanded industry.

Said to be the first plant of type, the new mill is being built by the Lehigh Navigation Coal Company at Tamaqua, Schuylkill County. The Tamaqua plant and two other proposed water clarifying units at the company's Coaldale and Lansford collieries will cost an estimated one million dollars.

The new plant, built after years of experimentation, expects to make a profit on its coal recovery operations which will more than pay for its attempt to clarify mine waste waters. The project will be closely observed by other coal producers who may erect similar plants if the Lehigh project is successful.

A New York manufacturer has leased a building in Scranton containing 10,000 square feet of floor space where 100 persons, mainly women, will be employed in the manufacture of misses' and junior dresses. The new company, said to be operated by Kenneth Warg and Benjamin H. Lapin, will start operations in the factory formerly occupied by the Power Loom Rug Company after the first of the year. The rug company will move to a vacant building, formerly the E. Robinson Brewery, which it recently purchased.

The Scranton Record Company has purchased three buildings from the Lackawanna Mills in a move to expand production facilities. The properties are in the South Scranton industrial area.

Frank C. Douds and Company, Inc., has purchased from the Greater New Castle Association a property and lot on which it will build a plant enabling an increase in production facilities. The Douds Company, a long established local industry now working on high priority war material, plans to use the new building for peace time work.

The Reading Chamber of Commerce reports the following industries have located in its area in the past thirty days. DeGeorge Clothing Manufacturing Company, L. D. Adams Engineering Company and the Wernersville Welding Company.

Usually the more intelligent a conversation is the less there is of conversation.

## Schuylkill Cleanup Near After 100 Years Pollution

By LEEDS MOBERLEY  
Aggravation

One day back in 1812 a man named George Shoemaker arrived in Philadelphia hoping to find a market for the coal he had discovered on some land he owned near Pottsville.

He was by no means the first to try to exploit Pennsylvania anthracite. The Lehigh Coal Company had been organized as far back as 1773, but the public was skeptical of the "stone coal" because it was so hard to ignite. Many a promoter went broke trying to break down the popular prejudice.

### Met Opposition

Shoemaker's reception was anything but encouraging. He brought nine wagonloads of coal with him and as John F. Watson recorded in his "Annals of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania in the Olden Times," he "met with a host of opposition."

"On two wagonloads," Watson wrote, "Mr. S. got the carriage paid; the others he gave away to persons who would attempt to use them. The result was against the coal; those who tried them pronounced them stone and not coal, good for nothing, and Shoemaker an impostor!"

"At length, after a multitude of disappointments, and when Shoemaker was about to abandon the coal and return home, Messrs. Mellon and Bishop, of Delaware county, made an experiment with some of the coal in their rolling mill and found them to succeed beyond expectation, and to be a highly valuable and useful fuel."

### Coal Tried Out

"The results of their experiments was published at the time in the Philadelphia papers. Some experiments with the coal were made in the works at the Falls of Schuylkill, but without success. Mr. Wernwag, the manager of the Phoenix Works, at French Creek, also made trial of the coal and found it eminently useful."

"From that time forward the use of coal spread rapidly and now bids fair to become a most important and valuable branch of trade and to produce results highly beneficial to the interests of Pennsylvania generally."

Watson's prophecy, written a century ago, has been fulfilled more abundantly than he could have dreamed. What he did not foresee was that, as a corollary, one of Pennsylvania's principal waterways would be all but destroyed and Philadelphia's water supply imperiled by the industry's wastes.

### Choked With Silt

The name of the Schuylkill—which means "Hidden River"—has become an ironic pun, for the stream is choked today with 25,000,000 to 30,000,000 tons of coal silt and silt.

At Fairmount Dam the silt is 13 feet deep, and there are 9,000,000 tons of it between the dam and Norristown, the "pool" upon which half of Philadelphia depends for its water supply. In the short stretch between Fairmount and Flat Rock dams also there is a concentration of more than 3,000,000 tons—enough to cover Broad st. 10 feet deep for its whole length.

The river is so shallow in consequence that the Water Bureau reports that "for relatively long periods during the summer months the entire flow of the Schuylkill River is pumped, filtered and supplied to Philadelphia for domestic use, so that the city is now suffering from an inadequate supply."

The small quantity of water in the river aggravates the pollution; the sewage and industrial wastes discharged along the way reach Philadelphia's pumping stations in such a concentrated form that the bacteria count of raw Schuylkill water is even higher than that taken from the Delaware—which is polluted by Philadelphia's own sewage.

At times of freshet, the river overflows because the shallowed channel is unable to carry the additional water. And as for navigation—the Federal Government, by dint of constant dredging, contrives to keep the lower part open, but only rowboats and canoes can navigate the upper reaches. Now the silt is even threatening to close off Boat-house Row.

### Problem Acute

The mine waste problem is probably more acute in the Schuylkill valley than in any other coal field in the world. Mining is difficult in the area because of the formation of the coal measures, the Army Engineers found in an exhaustive survey in 1938, and "there is a tendency toward a higher production of undersized fine coal in mining than is encountered in any other field. This is one explanation for the large production of silt refuse which must be disposed of."

About 15 percent of the coal mined even with modern methods is wasted. In the old days the waste was even higher. The coal was separated from the rock, slate and dirt dug up with it by dry screening and the residue was piled up in culm banks. Erosion of these old culm banks is one source of the present pollution clogging the river.

About 1900 the wet process of coal recovery was introduced and the silting of the river was speeded up. The wet process is simply a matter of separating the coal from the wastes by washing. Under this process the residue is largely coal dirt—silt. Some mines, particularly the bootleg operations that sprang up during the depression, discharged this silt-laden waste water directly into the river.

Others settled out the solids and piled them on culm banks, but these banks were far less stable than those from the days of dry screening and the erosion was rapid. A few of the larger operators have built settling basins which effectively retain the silt and prevent its being washed into the river.

### Remedial Efforts Blocked

But efforts at remedial legislation to force all the operators in line were consistently blocked by the mining interests, which were able to get special exemptions whenever a pure streams bill was

under consideration in the Legislature.

It was not until 1937, during the Earle Administration, that a law was enacted covering both sewage and industrial pollution. Now, seven years later, the long overdue cleanup finally seems to be in sight.

The State Sanitary Water Board, under prodding from the Schuylkill Valley Restoration Association and the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, finally cracked down on the mines last summer.

This was the start of a \$25,000,000 industry-State-Federal program to restore the Schuylkill in a six-year period.

### Details of Plan

The mines are to install proper equipment for removing the silt from their waste water and preventing erosion of their culm banks, at a total cost of \$6,000,000.

The State is to dredge out the upper Schuylkill above Norristown at a cost of \$7,000,000 and build a \$2,000,000 desilting basin at Auburn to intercept the coal wastes from uncontrolled sources which will continue to move down from the headquarters for several more years.

Gov. Martin has given the program his indorsement and legislation is now being drafted for introduction at the session which opens today. Meanwhile, efforts are being made to induce the Federal Government to dredge out the 9,000,000 tons of silt between Fairmount Dam and Norristown—a job estimated at about \$10,000,000.

### Planned by Army Man

The cleanup program was drafted by the same man who plotted the D-Day landings in Normandy for Eisenhower—an Army engineer named John C. H. Lee. In 1938 Lee, now a lieutenant general, was a lieutenant colonel and district engineer stationed in Philadelphia.

At that time the Federal Government declined to do any dredging in the non-navigable part of the river. The plan was to let the silt between here and Norristown gradually wash over the dam into the navigable part of the river, when the Government would scoop it out.

### Want U. S. to Do It

Now the cleanup forces, led by Orphans' Court Judge Grover C. Ladner, president of the Schuylkill Valley Restoration Association, and the quasi-governmental Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, contend that since the Federal Government is going to do the dredging eventually anyway, it would be better to do it all at once and get it over.

The Army engineers at Congress' direction are restudying the 1938 report and bringing it up to date with that proposal in mind.

The restudy will be finished in about two weeks.

This is the second of three articles. Tomorrow: Do we need a new source of water?

## M'GURK ASSAILS GOV. MARTIN FOR KEEPING STEWART

Register of Wills Candidate  
Blames City for  
Water Problem

By THOMAS P. O'NEIL

Edmund B. J. McGurk, Democratic leader of the 38th ward, last night criticized Gov. Martin for retaining Dr. A. Hamilton Stewart as State Secretary of Health.

Dr. Stewart's removal had been requested by the U. S. Civil Service Commission for complicity in violation of the Hatch Act.

### Recalls Martin's Praise

McGurk, Democratic candidate for Register of Wills, addressed a meeting of the 26th Ward Democratic Executive Committee, Broad and Moore sts.

Recalling Gov. Martin's praise of Dr. Stewart in announcing Wednesday that he had no intention of dropping his health director, McGurk said: "What's the sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander." He referred to Hatch Act stipulations that no Federal employees can take part in politics. Scores of State Health Department employees are partially paid by Federal funds.

Early this year Dr. Stewart was accused by the U. S. Civil Service Commission of "sharing the responsibility and participating in the coercion of Health Department employees to make political contributions" to the 1942 Republican campaign, a violation of the Hatch act.

### Accuses City Administration

McGurk also urged Philadelphians to "see what has happened in connection with the \$18,000,000 bond issue issued by authority of the people in 1941 for improvement of Philadelphia's water system."

He accused city officials of "frittering away more than \$850,000 of the money making preliminary surveys."

"Mayor Samuel," said McGurk, "has now appointed a new commission to study the water situation. All he needs do is dust off some of the more than 50-year-old reports that have been accumulating dust."

### High Wage Tax

He estimated that taxpayers "earning any sort of a decent wage" are paying between \$35 and \$50 annually in wage taxes.

"These people are not getting anything for this money, but they continue voting the same old gang back into office," McGurk said.

## City Appoints Body to Study Water Supply

Sullivan Chairman  
Of Group That Will  
Recommend Steps

Mayor Bernard Samuel yesterday announced the names of 20 members of a Water Commission created to study all available data on the city's water situation and to make recommendations for steps to be taken in the future.

Ernest V. D. Sullivan, president of the Terminal Warehouse Co. and consultant in this area for the Federal Surplus Property Commission, was named chairman, and Samuel H. Rosenberg, executive secretary to the Mayor, was designated as secretary.

### WILL REVIEW ALL DATA

Mayor Samuel asserted that the new commission would review all previous recommendations for the improvement of Philadelphia's water supply; examine data in the Department of Public Works files and all other reports and estimates relative to the city's water supply; and, with the aid of technical advisers, make final recommendations for approval or disapproval at the polls, probably in 1946.

In stressing that he felt the commission should make its own alternative suggestions, he declared that the body should:

"First, set forth in detail what could be expected from the improvement of the present source of supply, in adequate quantity and quality of water required by the city, showing its cost.

### SOURCE OF SUPPLY

Second, give a recommended source or sources of supply outside the city, showing the cost, the quantity and quality of water which could be received from them, and the methods suggested to finance the undertakings."

He added that the commission, in determining "whether or not an improved present water source would insure a better quantity and quality of water required by the city," should consider "the improved and increased facilities in pumping stations, filtration plants and extended distribution being undertaken in the current \$18,000,000 water service project."

### WORK DELAYED BY WAR

The project was authorized several years ago, but work on it has been delayed by the war.

Mayor Samuel further stated that he "has in mind the preparation of a definite program, to be known as the Philadelphia Plan for the Improvement of its Water Supply," and said he wished to "re-emphasize the importance of the project and its bearing on the future" of the city.

The project, he said, "is part of

Continued on Page 2, Column 5

## City Names Body To Study Water

Continued From First Page.

our post-war plan, and no time should be lost in the preparatory and execution of plans that will establish our place permanently as a leader in industry and commerce and improve living conditions in our city."

### OTHER MEMBERS OF GROUP

Other members of the water survey commission are:

John H. Neeson, Director of Public Works; Martin J. McLaughlin, chief of the Bureau of Water; Frank F. Truscott, City Solicitor; Frederick Garman, president of City Council; Councilman Phineas T. Greeley; Judge Grover C. Ladner, Robert J. Remmey, Jr., of Richard C. Remmey Son Co.; Lee Ellmaker, publisher Daily News; Gilbert J. Kraus, vice president and general counsel, Philadelphia Record; Robert McCay Green, assistant general manager, The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Also, Herbert W. Goodall, president, Trademens National Bank; William H. Harmon, president, William Sellers & Co.; Joseph Burke, president, Building and Construction Trades Council of Philadelphia and Vicinity; James H. Allen, executive secretary, Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin; Earle N. Barber, president, Philadelphia Real Estate Board; George Cushing, president, United Businessmen's Association; Thomas Mallon, regional director, American Federation of Labor, and Harry Block, president, Philadelphia Industrial Union Council.

### How Much Water?

THE new Water Commission will find itself studying the quantity as well as the quality of water that can be taken by the city from the Delaware and Schuylkill. And in past reports it can get plenty of instruction on how to avoid going wrong on the amount that will be needed.

A Water Commission that reported in 1924 put the average daily consumption at that time at 325,000,000 gallons and estimated that in 1975 the figure would be 500,000,000.

But in 1944, 20 years later, the consumption averaged only 320,000,000 gallons a day. Summer conservation campaigns have been effective, but the savings from them have probably been more than offset by increased demands of war industries. One thing the 1924 Commission may have overlooked is the saving possible through detecting and stopping underground leaks. The latest pitometer survey is credited with saving 2,700,000 gallons a day.

Another way to go wrong is to overestimate the city's future growth. A survey in 1914 predicted a population of 3,095,000 in 1950—leaving over a million to go in the present decade. Statistics like that easily build up a false case for acquiring additional sources.

The firm of engineers that advised the city in 1940 believed that with proper conservation measures, including universal metering, the present sources were adequate for a population of 2,500,000.



# City's Sewage Gets Into Water Supply Because Treatment Plant Is Obsolete

By LEEDS MOBERLEY

About the best thing you can say for Philadelphia's present water source is that it isn't as bad as Chester's.

Chester, which draws its supply from the Delaware River, has all the pollution we have to contend with, plus the 400,000,000 gallons of sewage we discharge every day.

But some of our sewage goes into our own pipes, too. Our only sewage treatment plant, on the Delaware River at Wheatshaf la., is so obsolete and run down that it is only about 20 percent efficient. It spews an estimated 60,000,000 to 65,000,000 gallons of raw sewage daily within tidal range of the Torresdale intake.

## Chief Pollution Source

There is no way of calculating just how much of that discharge actually goes into our drinking water supply. Ellwood J. Turner, chairman of the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin (Incodel), and Judge Grover C. Ladner, president of the Schuylkill Valley Restoration Association, declare it represents the chief source of pollution at the Torresdale intake—greater than all other sources combined.

City engineers, reluctant to be quoted, admit privately that "under extreme conditions some sewage goes past the intake." Several years ago the Water Bureau released floats at Wheatshaf la. to see how far upstream the tide would carry them. About half of those released at low tide went up past Torresdale.

## Upland Source Considered

There has been talk of going upland for a new, uncontaminated source ever since the first waterworks was built on the banks of the Schuylkill at the beginning of the 19th century. In fact, it started even before that, for Benjamin Franklin in his will proposed—at a time when the citizens still were taking their water from wells—that the city impound the waters of the Wissahickon as a source of supply.

## Dozen Surveys Made

As the pollution of the rivers increased and the dosage of chlorine to combat the heavy bacteria content became greater and greater, Philadelphians became more and more convinced that in the not-too-distant future they would have to tap a new, distant source, however costly it might be.

There have been no less than a dozen surveys and various projects ranging in cost up to \$300,000,000. Some advocated going to the Poconos, some the Perkiomen, some the Neshaminy, some the upper Delaware.

## Mayor Promised Commission

And in his inaugural address a year ago Mayor Samuel said: "The people of Philadelphia have a right, if they so desire, to receive a supply of water drawn from upland sources rather than from the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers, regardless of whether or not those streams could be made free from pollution. . . . I will appoint a commission to make a complete and thorough survey of sites and recommendations."

The commission has not been appointed and, with present prospects for cleaning up the two rivers, together with the pending \$3,000,000 modernization of the waterworks (temporarily interrupted by the war), it looks as if the idea of a costly new source is being quietly shelved.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has inaugurated at last the first phase of a \$25,000,000 joint

plants at all, and the downstream towns feel it is unfair under the circumstances to make them install additional facilities.

The Board has taken the position that it cannot order the upriver towns to build sewage treatment works as long as mine acids are being discharged from the coal workings. And although the clean program calls for the elimination of silt from the mine discharges, no practicable method has been found thus far from eliminating the acids.

## Judge Ladner's Opinions

Whether Reading and the other communities below it finally build secondary treatment plants or not, Judge Ladner for one believes the Schuylkill will become reasonably pure once more simply with the dredging out of the silt. With the channel cleaned out the river will carry a correspondingly greater amount of water. That in turn will mean a smaller degree of pollution, which will be further reduced by the natural "aeration" of the water itself.

Meanwhile, Philadelphia is preparing at last to clean up its sewage. A sewer rental plan designed to finance a \$42,000,000 program is now undergoing a Court test and if it is upheld—as city officials seem confident it will be—the voters will be asked at a referendum this year to authorize a self-liquidating loan.

## Calls for Thorough Treatment

The program calls for complete treatment of all Philadelphia's sewage, which will remove probably 90 percent of all solids. The Northeast (Wheatshaf la.) treatment plant is to be modernized and expanded and new plants are to be built on the lower Schuylkill and lower Delaware Rivers.

Primary treatment will be by sedimentation, which will remove about 30 percent of the solids. An aerating process will remove the suspended matter which does not settle out.

While the removal of silt and the treatment of sewage are cleaning up the raw water supply, the waterworks program will be bringing improved methods of treatment for our drinking water, which, it is promised, probably will permit a much smaller dosage of chlorine and in any case eliminate the present objectionable tastes and odors.

That being the case, Judge Ladner declares it would be "ridiculous to spend \$300,000,000 to bring water down from the Poconos when we'll have water just as good flowing right past our doors."

## Turner's Ideas Similar

Turner expressed similar sentiments in a recent article in the *Readers' Magazine*, published by the Philadelphia Real Estate Board. He said it seemed "absurd for the city to even consider spending anywhere from \$100,000,000 to \$300,000,000 to obtain water from a mountain watershed at this time."

"The final product will not be

noticeably better," he said, "although it will be materially more costly."

But however delicious the city water may become as a result of all the projects now in prospect, there is one problem that may some day force the acquisition of a new source or at least a supplementary supply. That is storage.

At the present time the city's storage capacity—its reserve against a possible major breakdown which could conceivably occur in even the most modern and well-kept plant—is only two and one-half days' supply.

## Water Bureau Has Plan

In case some future administration decides it wants to invest in additional capacity, the Water Bureau has a plan, which would cost somewhere between \$75,000,000 and \$100,000,000. It calls for a new pumping station on the Delaware River at Yardley, above Trenton and above the tidal influence.

In combination with that, the Lower Neshaminy Creek would be dammed to create a storage basin of 11,400,000,000 gallons capacity, into which the Delaware water would be pumped. Conduits from the dam would carry water to the Torresdale filters on the Delaware and the Queen la. pumping station on the Schuylkill.

In addition, the plan calls for damming the Perkiomen Creek at Green la. to make another reservoir of 30,000,000 gallons capacity. Finally, a filtered water basin in Somerton would provide storage for 5,000,000,000 gallons—more than 100 days' supply—of finished water ready to be piped into the mains.

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# If a Fish Flops Out of Your Spigot—So What? It's 'Harmless'—or So Water Bureau Says

Yes, the Water Bureau admitted yesterday, fish do get into the water mains sometimes.

But think nothing of it.

If one comes popping out of your spigot, just toss it in the garbage can and give thanks for another of Philadelphia's many blessings.

Our funny friends came from the East Park reservoir, 33d and Diamond sts. And far from being any menace, said Lyle L. Jenne, sanitary engineer for the Water Bureau, "they help to keep the water purified by eating small bugs and insects."

## "No Peril," He Says

"Neither the live fish nor the dead fish need cause any concern," he declared reassuringly, "and they do not constitute any hygienic peril.

"Occasionally, however, these

fish are a nuisance in that they plug up meters—and then, of course, they are removed."

And another thing: Apparently the dead ones are not victims of the chlorinated water. At any rate, Jenne said they "usually die of injury or starvation."

Anyway, the dead ones are found only "in rare instances," he said. Jenne's discourse on the piscatorial content of the Schuylkill cocktail was prompted by a prominent physician's charge that raw, polluted water must be getting into the mains.

## Charge by Dr. Doane

The accuser was Dr. Joseph C. Doane, medical director of Jewish Hospital and professor of clinical medicine at Temple University School of Medicine. He was one of four medical authorities who participated in a panel discussion of the water situation

over Station WCAU Friday evening.

Dr. Doane said he didn't think water so full of sludge and slime was fit to drink. He said the presence of so much dirt, together with the occasional dead fish, "means that somewhere, somehow, direct access to supply lines of river water or reservoir water has taken place." And he added: "If this is the case, it would seem possible that from time to time dangerous contamination exists."

## Denies Contamination

Jenne confirmed that reservoir water—not river water—is drawn into the mains at times of heavy demand, such as the recent hot spell, but denied that it is contaminated.

The East Park Reservoir is an open storage basin for filtered

Continued on Page 2, Column 2.

# A Constructive Move for Better Water

Mayor Samuel's appointment of a 20-member Water Commission is a welcome and constructive step toward obtaining something this city has wanted for many years, a better water supply.

The Mayor has mapped out a method of procedure for the new board that gives promise, for the first time, of definite action to improve the quality of our drinking water and to insure a supply adequate for our growing needs.

The Commission's task is two-fold. It will set forth what can be expected in improved quality and quantity, from the present sources, the Delaware and the Schuylkill Rivers. It will, in addition, recommend the most suitable source outside the city, giving details as to the costs.

Philadelphia has had a succession of Commissions, stringing back over the years, that have investigated the water situation and re-

ported their findings in weighty reports, all now gathering dust on City Hall shelves.

None of those prior boards, however, tackled the problem in the same way that the new agency plans, under instructions from the Mayor. All sides of the water supply picture in Philadelphia will be examined by the members, with the assistance of technical advisers, and their conclusions and recommendations will be turned over to the people, for their approval or disapproval, at the polls, probably in 1946.

We want better water and more water than we are now supplied. Whether to rely on existing sources or to abandon them for an upland supply has been argued back and forth for generations. The new Commission should produce the facts on which the people will be able to make their own decision. Its findings will be looked forward to with keen interest.

# FISH IN YOUR SPIGOT? PERFECTLY HARMLESS

CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE

water; the only further treatment the water is given before being piped to the consumers is a dose of chlorine. The reservoir, incidentally, has long been recognized as the best fishing spot in these immediate parts.

Jenne vigorously defended the city water from the standpoint of public health. He repeated the familiar argument that the results of daily laboratory tests are "almost invariably . . . for superior to the standards of the U. S. Public Health Service."

## Samples From 38 Points

Samplings are made from 38 different points and Jenne said: "There has not been in recent years any sampling that would show any menace to public health."

"Each week there is a compilation of the daily results and the weekly reports are submitted to the City Bureau and all Federal agencies which these reports," he added,

# Bureau Engineer Tells Requirements For Water Supply

These are the requirements for a public water supply, according to Lyle L. Jenne, sanitary engineer of the Water Bureau:

- "1. That it shall contain no organisms which cause disease."
- "2. That it shall be sparkling, clear and colorless."
- "3. That it be good tasting, free from odors and preferably cool."
- "4. That it be reasonably soft."
- "5. That it be neither scaling nor corrosive."
- "6. That it be free from objectionable gas such as hydrogen sulphide and objectionable minerals such as iron and manganese."
- "7. That it be plentiful and low in cost."

The water is tested daily and Jenne said there has not been any recent sampling "which would show any menace to public health."

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# Official Disputes Water Charges

Director of Public Works Martin J. McLaughlin yesterday termed "entirely wrong" charges by Dr. Joseph A. Langbord, Democratic candidate for Coroner, that raw, contaminated water was being pumped into the city's water supply system.

The city official said similar charges were made last spring and disproved at that time.

Allegations by the Democratic candidate that filter beds were blocked by silt and that the Queen Lane station was frequently bypassed for the same reason also were denied by the city official.

"Dr. Langbord is entirely wrong," said Mr. McLaughlin. "All the water in our distribution system is filtered and chlorinated. No raw water is used."

"Silt does not block the Torresdale or other filter beds because they are constantly being washed by machinery. Queen Lane is not bypassed as all the water is completely filtered and chlorinated."

"Similar charges were made last spring and completely disproved at that time. The chemicals used meet all public health requirements and standards and are supervised by the State Department of Health and the U. S. Public Health Service."

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# 'Priorities Delay Water System Plan

To the Editor:

I read with personal interest in *The Record* of the Committee of Seventy's criticism of the delay in proceeding with the expenditure of the \$18,000,000 loan for the rehabilitation of the city's water supply, particularly the statement that qualified authorities have advised them that "for some time material has been available for certain important phases of the work."

I believe I am a "qualified authority" on this subject. My firm is performing a contract for certain work in this connection at Lardners Point Pumping Station. This contract was to have been completed in October, 1944. It is not yet completed. The reason in a nutshell is that the AA-3 priority granted to the city of Philadelphia is practically worthless. The vendor is just not permitted to sell.

If the Committee of Seventy is really interested, let it use its efforts to obtain an AA-1 priority for the water program and the approval of the War Manpower Commission to release men for this work.

Much of this rehabilitation program is the replacement or enlargement of the existing system, and the importance of non-interference with the present water supply is the real hazard that prevents the prosecution of this work unless every piece of material is either on hand or immediately available.

We have been waiting 20 weeks for a certain part to complete our contract. Suppose the city officials had permitted us to interfere with the city's water supply for that length of time!

EDWARD C. RAY

# No Bath, No Beverage From City Water Supply

To the Editor:

This very evening, when I had finished dinner, I went upstairs intent on taking a bath. I went into the bathroom and started the water. I then went to my bedroom with the idea of preparing myself for a luxurious hour in the tub. Upon re-entering the bathroom, the odor was almost unbearable. And, because of the stench of this liquid, which our fair City Council insists is water, I went without a bath.

I stopped drinking this "WATER." Now I ask you, must I also stop bathing? Anyone who values their skin has no alternative.

46 LOVER OF LIFE

# City Hall Has Trouble Finding An \$8000-a-Year Executive

The city administration is having trouble filling the job of Water Bureau chief.

The \$8000-a-year post doesn't pay enough, it seems. Director of Public Works Martin J. McLaughlin is dickering with a man who gets \$9000 in private industry, and won't switch for less.

So the place still is vacant, after nearly seven weeks. Last September 6 McLaughlin, who until then was chief, was made Director of Public Works to succeed the late John H. Neeson. Since then McLaughlin really has been doing the work of his old and new jobs for the director's

salary of \$10,000 a year.

"I don't see how I can get a competent man under \$9000," McLaughlin complained yesterday. "Philadelphia's waterworks system probably is the most complicated in the country. Its head must be both an engineer and an administrator. He really ought to get \$10,000. Other cities pay \$12,000, \$15,000 and even \$25,000 for similar jobs."

Some years ago the director got \$12,000, and the chiefs of bureaus in the Public Works Department, including water, got \$10,000. The late Mayor S. Davis Wilson lopped \$2000 off each of those jobs when he took office in 1936.

# Docior Assails G.O.P. on Water

Opening his campaign for Coroner on the Democratic ticket, Dr. Joseph A. Langbord last night charged that "raw, contaminated water" is being pumped directly into the city's water supply system from the Schuylkill and Delaware River.

In a broadcast to the voters, Dr. Langbord declared that he could state on the "best of authority" that the U. S. Public Health Service, following an inspection of the Philadelphia waterworkers last spring, discovered that raw water was being used "without filtration at the Torresdale plant because some of the filter beds were blocked up by silt and sludge."

## OTHER FILTERS BY-PASSED

"I can state on equally good authority," he added, "that the Queen Lane filters are frequently by-passed for the same reason."

"The water is dosed with chlorine—but if chlorine and filtration are not adequate, how much good does chlorine alone do? That is how safe the water is that you're getting from the Republican machine. It isn't fit to drink under any consideration."

## EVERY RULE 'VIOLATED'

On the question of water, he added, "the city itself violates every rule of hygiene." The product served the community, he asserted, "comes from a foul and contaminated source, 'contending that it is processed with 'out-of-date and broken-down equipment.'"

"Illness and death may be lurking in your spigot," he contended.

Asserting that the Republican city administration has done nothing to correct the situation, he added that municipal authorities seem to be "completely indifferent" to the dangers.

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# City Still Lacks Water Board Head

Since the elevation of Martin J. McLaughlin from chief of the Bureau of Water to Director of Public Works, no successor has been nominated and Mr. McLaughlin said yesterday that he had no one to recommend.

Mr. McLaughlin, who became department head following the death of John H. Neeson, said the \$8000 salary is inadequate to attract men with administrative and engineering ability. He added he thought the salary should be raised to \$9000.

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# Levy Asks Mayo Action On Clean

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### Levy Raps Committee Delay Asks Quick Action By Mayor

Isaac D. Levy, chairman of the board of the WCAU Broadcasting Company, urged Philadelphia citizens to support his radio crusade for better drinking water by writing letters and cards to Mayor Bernard Samuel demanding immediate action on purification measures. His plea was made in an address over WCAU last Friday night.

Levy's campaign, which has been almost completely ignored by newspapers here, has been steadily gaining supporters. Following his broadcast last week the station was swamped with telephone calls and mail.

In his talk last Friday night Levy declared "it is the duty of the Mayor to convene with Council and effect legislation to remedy the water condition. From previous reports he has all the necessary data. It was unnecessary to appoint another committee. The water sources from which we could receive excellent water have not changed since previous reports were made."

The complete text of Mr. Levy's address follows:

On May the first I told you that WCAU urges and, if necessary, intends to compel the public officials to give the people of the city of Philadelphia the best drinking water obtainable. In that talk I pointed out to the Mayor, the city council and the members of the committee, whom the Mayor appointed, how the necessary legal mechanism could be set up in thirty days if they acted promptly. I sent all of these gentlemen a copy of my talk I want to inform the people who did not hear my previous talk that WCAU proposes to

(Continued on Page Two)



ISAAC D. LEVY

29th

Urges

November Vote on Water

## Levy Asks Speedy Action To Place Issue On Ballot

The radio crusade of Isaac D. Levy, chairman of the WCAU Broadcasting Co., to provide decent drinking water for Philadelphians went into high gear last Friday night when the radio executive blasted Mayor Samuel's plan for a referendum on the issue.

Levy, who is conducting his campaign with little support from newspapers, charged that the people do not want a referendum on whether to "drink filthy or clean water." He stated that citizens want action, not "buck-passing."

Levy urged the Mayor to consult immediately with city engineers, arrange loans with banking institutions and start work on the project.

The text of Levy's speech follows:

On May 18th I spoke to you  
(Continued on Page Nine)

## Phila. Water Plan Called Impractical

Legal difficulties in the way of the Wallpack-Yardley plan for using the upper Delaware River as a source for Philadelphia water make it impractical.

Robert L. Boyd, assistant secretary of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co., so declared last night at the monthly meeting of the United Businessmen's Association at the Sylvania Hotel.

Boyd asserted that not only would New Jersey and Pennsylvania laws passed in 1783 and prohibiting diversion of river water have to be repealed, but that an interstate contract among New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania would have to be approved by Congress and the Army Engineers before the plan could be put into effect.

## Levy Asks Speedy Action To Place Issue On Ballot

(Continued from Page One)

about the insistence of WCAU that the public officials of this city perform their sworn duty to see that you are able to get a glass of decent drinking water instead of the filthy liquid that is now given to you. In that talk I reminded you of our promise to dramatize the condition of our city water in such a manner that would awaken you to its perils, and also to stimulate the city officials to action for fear of your condemnation of their inactivity, of their incompetence, or worse.

Recently I received a letter from Senator George Wharton Pepper. Let me quote from that letter. "I was delighted with your suggestion that the function of the existing committee is not to appoint another committee but to get busy itself. If you are driven to the 'big bottle' experiment, I hope to be on hand to see demonstration but should like to be excused from drinking anything but out-of-town water!"

Mr. Mayor, if you force us to act, it will be your fault.

Mayor Bernard Samuel completed the unexpired term of Mayor Lamberton, then was elected to the office of Mayor, and has been in that office for a total of 45 months. He has been in politics for 35 years or more and was a member of city council for a long time. He knows all about our water condition.

In response to the letters that you sent him condemning our water situation and asking him to stop fooling around and do something about it, he replied to some of you that his appointed committee is engaged in preparing two plans for the people to vote on. One was the improved use of local sources and the other was the utilization of upland sources. He stated in that letter that while there have been reports by other water committees in the past, that this is the first time the voters will have an opportunity to express their preference in a clearly defined referendum. If it was necessary to have a referendum, why was it that every candidate who has run for the office of Mayor during my memory has gone out of his way to promise to remedy the water condition of this city? Does Mayor Samuel think that after being in office for 45 months that the best he can now offer is a referendum? Shades of Rip Van Winkle!

### Duty and Responsibility

When you elected Mr. Samuel the Mayor of this city, you entrusted him with a duty and the responsibility of correcting this water situation. The Mayor has decided not to assume this responsibility himself. Very few people like to assume responsibility. It is easier to appoint committees and usually nothing happens. This is called passing the buck. It is born of laziness and fear. If only public officials could learn that straight, clear thinking and hard work produce results. So many are afraid of imaginary shadows, listen to whispers, wink a wise eye and look in all directions before they dare tell you it's a nice day. It is up to the Mayor to determine how to proceed and, while we disagree with him on the method, nevertheless, during the term of his office we must abide by his decision.

Our form of government may have its faults, but it is still the best government on earth.

Since 1917, the people of this city of New York have been receiving their water from the Catskill Mountains. It is very good water. The people like it. They do not mind spending a few extra pennies for it. The public officials of the City of New York acted promptly. They had no referendum. They did not bother about appointing committees after committee. The people of the city of New York acted and you will be rewarded by the gratitude of the people of this city for generations to come.

For the referendum, Mr. Mayor you promised certain information to the people. We are not trying to embarrass you, so we are going to make a sporting proposition. I you insist on the referendum, relax and take until September 1st of this year to present to the people the information you will give them. You neglected to state to the people to whose letters you replied whether or not you expect to hold this referendum in November. Do you? If so, the people are entitled to know it. You promised in your letter, Mr. Mayor, that this administration "is determined to settle the problem once and for all," but you didn't say when.

### Time to get Busy

Mr. Mayor, as we have said before, we have no desire to dramatize this situation, and we will resort to it only if you do not act. If you want to get this referendum on the November ballot, if that is your desire, you had better get busy. If it does not appear on this ballot, the people may very well ask you where you have been and what you have been doing for the past 51 months. By November you will have served as Mayor 5 months. We are determined to fight for good water until we obtain it. If the people fight hard enough for anything, they get what they want. It is only when they do not care enough to fight that they are compelled to accept water of the character this city offers.

The committee the Mayor appointed, through its chairman Ernest V. D. Sullivan, stated that in the shortest possible time you will be offered a chance to vote or whether you want to continue to receive the water you are now getting from the present heavily polluted sources or from new sources. A sub-committee was appointed as I knew it would be, to receive advice from competent engineers to be selected immediately. Immediately means promptly; it means no time shall lapse; it means now. In the past, engineers have taken months and years to prepare their reports. All the information they can acquire is already on file. We will not be satisfied with pigeon-holed, delayed reports.

Mr. Herbert W. Goodall, the chairman of the sub-committee, is president of the Tradesmen's National Bank. How long do you think it would take him to decide whether or not a loan should be granted to an applicant? Mr. Goodall, get your committee to act promptly, just as you would in your own business affairs. Show the public you are a man of stature and also that you are interested in giving them their birthright. **Prefer Clean Water**

Let me read to you a paragraph of an address delivered by Edgar W. Baird, Jr., the city treasurer of Philadelphia, before the Linsley

Onley Lions Club on May 7. He said: "Why are we drinking water from sources in which is being dumped the sewage and industrial wastes of not only our own community, but that of many other towns and cities, even within a comparatively few miles of Philadelphia and at the lowest comparable per capita costs, we have a source of pure, clean water, finer than any other city in America enjoys today. It's because the citizens of Philadelphia have not strongly enough indicated that they would prefer clean, sparkling mountain water to the highly chlorinated product they now receive and that they are willing and anxious to pay the price for it."

Now, Mr. Baird is our city treasurer. He is a public official, his statement is no different from the statements of all other candidates for Mayor. You, Mr. Mayor, said the same thing many times. WCAU sponsors no particular water source. We want good water and we do not care where it comes from, but it must be the best obtainable. Pay a few pennies more for water and pay less to the doctor.

The Mayor and city council, and certain politicians, may be satisfied with our water. If so, they can have all of it as far as we are concerned. If they are satisfied with it, however, why is City Hall loaded with bottled water, which they drink and for which the citizens of this city pay? Everybody can't afford bottled water. The doctrine will do for the rich, but not for the poor.

What shortsighted people are our executives! Don't they realize how much it would help the city just to have good drinking water?

Do you people in this city realize how corroded your pipes are and how full of mud they are? How many of you have driven through the parkway when you were almost suffocated by the stench of the Schuylkill River? That comes from your water.

### Will Hold Forums

In the near future, WCAU intends to hold forums, at which time the various people who are acquainted with the water problem and prominent physicians will be invited to inform you, over this station, about the condition of our water and how it affects your health.

Mr. Mayor, you have suggested the referendum, but it is not too late for you to start over again. You are big enough to change your mind. Call in your city engineers who know all about the water condition; then consult with our leading bankers and arrange for a loan. This could be done in no time. It is as simple as that. You have as much information now as you will ever get. The people don't want a referendum. They want you to act now. Mr. Mayor, don't you hear the bugle?

## Is 'Half Cent a Day' Too Much for Pure Water?

Pure water for Philadelphia was an issue way back in 1899.

The Record on Friday published a facsimile of part of the front page of the defunct Philadelphia Times, dated March 29 of that year—47 years ago.

A Grand Jury with "power to act at once" was to take up the question of foul water.

The automobile has developed since from an experiment to an industry. The airplane has grown up. Two world wars have been fought. The atom bomb has been invented.

But Philadelphia water remains the same—an unholy chemical experiment.

Why? Because we have had the kind of thinking in city government as exemplified Thursday by Public Works Director Martin J. McLaughlin.

Before City Council's Public Works Committee, he stated that city engineers were opposed to a plan of the Lehigh Coal & Navigation Company to bring pure water here from its property in the Poconos.

A new, unadulterated source of drinking water! What the city has needed for more years than the oldest inhabitants can remember. Many plans have been advanced during the years.

The chlorine cocktail is still with us.

We do not know the merits of the coal firm's proposal, which the company estimated would cost the city \$142,000,000.

But the point is that neither does McLaughlin.

He objected to the project because:

"Our engineers believe the cost would be millions and millions of dollars more than the company's figures."

An engineer doesn't talk that way. Not if he knows his business. The project may be worthless. But if it is to be opposed it should be for a good reason backed by facts.

No plan should be damned because it will cost "millions."

Of course, a new water supply will cost millions. It can't be had for a song.

This is the same kind of uninformed obstructionism that was employed to block the construction of a depressed, rather than a surface, superhighway over Vine st.

It would cost too much!

How much is too much?

Way back in 1937, The Record showed that Philadelphia could have pure, fresh water, that the cost would run about \$150,000,000. Yes, that's a large sum.

But it means, when transferred into non-frightening terms, that the people could have pure water for only half a cent a day for each adult.

Is that too much?

It is no coincidence that Philadelphia has been burdened by Republican machine rule over all those years the people have been clamoring for good water—and not getting it.

Millions were squandered on municipal white elephants.

But now necessary improvements are obstructed by the unsubstantiated cry—"They cost too much!"



# MAYOR RAPED U. S. DELAY ON POSTWAR AID

## Says City Will Take All Federal Funds It Can Get

RECORD - 8-26-45  
Mayor Samuel, now eager to accept all the Federal money Philadelphia can get, scolded the Government yesterday for its "hesitancy and delay" on postwar public works.

### Says City Has Program

This city, he said, has plans for an "extensive" program of improvements. But much of the program depends upon "substantial (Federal) financial aid" for an early start.

"The policy of my administration," he declared, "has been and will be to recommend to Council the acceptance of Federal funds for public works and improvements in Philadelphia if there are not imposed requirements or conditions which are burdensome or prejudicial to the best interests of the city."

### Letter to Congressmen

This statement—or restatement—of the Mayor's position was set forth in an 11-page letter addressed to Sen. Francis J. Myers and the six Philadelphia Congressmen.

The letter did not indicate what "conditions or requirements" he might consider burdensome or prejudicial. It was said unofficially he meant any condition which would take away the city's control over some municipal activity, such as an airport, and place it under Federal control.

### Insists He Means It

Nobody could recall any instance in which the Government had imposed such control. Sources close to the Mayor, however, insisted he was speaking in good faith and not merely trying to raise obstacles.

Samuel, as a matter of fact, has said repeatedly since he became Mayor that he would take all the Federal money that may be made available to Philadelphia.

His reaffirmation of that policy served to launch him on his fifth year in the Mayor's office—the longest tenure of any incumbent since Rudolph Blankenburg (1911-16).

### In Answer to Query

The letter, however, was in reply to a query addressed to him by Myers and the Congressmen on August 16. Seeking information to guide them in voting on proposed Federal public works appropriations, they asked three questions:

- "1. Will the city administration continue to refuse in the future as it has in the past, to accept Federal funds for public improvements for this city?"
- "2. At public works projects has the city planned as a cushion against unemployment? How soon can they be placed in operation and how soon after they are authorized will they provide employment? How much will they cost?"
- "3. What public works projects has the city planned which can be wholly financed out of city and State funds?"

### Held Finance

They presumably had in mind the fact that Samuel was at least partly responsible for the city's rejection of Federal funds during the depression. He was chairman of City Council's Finance Committee at the time, and one of the most influential men in council.

But the Mayor's reply gave no hint of his one-time reluctance. Instead, he called for more and more Federal aid. The city, he said, will be in a position to borrow only about \$57,000,000 for public improvements, aside from those which are self-supporting.

Highlights of his letter:  
**Public Works Program:** He pointed to the City Planning Commission's preliminary program, recommending some \$205,000,000 worth of projects, including water works improvement, sewage disposal, extension of the Market st. subway and removal of the Chinese Wall.

The commission's report, issued last fall, figured about \$95,000,000 worth of projects, providing some 26,500,000 man-hours of work, could be started whenever money, materials and labor were available. A second report, bringing the data up to date, is in preparation.

**Plans:** City Council appropriated almost \$700,000 in the 1944 budget for preparation of plans and specifications. Philadelphia expects to get \$200,000 from a

Continued on Page 6, Column 2.

## Mayor Samuel Hits U. S. Delay On Program for Public Works

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\$1,000,000 fund of the State Postwar Planning Commission. It also will obtain an as yet undetermined amount from a \$10,325,000 appropriation to the State Department of Health and a \$16,500,000 appropriation to the Department of Forests and Waters. (Some of the latter funds may be available for actual construction as well as planning of sewage disposal plants.)

By contrast, the Mayor complained that the city's share of Federal funds available for plans will be only \$200,000 to \$250,000—which, unlike the gifts from the State, will have to be repaid.

**Sewage Disposal:** Plans and specifications are completed for the first stages of the work. An \$8,000,000 loan ordinance is pending in City Council to provide funds for a start as soon as priorities are obtained or wartime restriction on materials are removed. The whole \$42,000,000 program can be financed "if necessary" by the new sewer rent—assuming it is upheld by the Supreme Court as it has been by the Common Pleas Court.

**Waterworks:** The \$18,000,000 loan authorized in 1940 takes care of the financing here, although increased costs in the interim may require some additional money. The work has been largely halted during the war, but contracts have just been signed for \$90,000 worth of pipeline mains.

Bids for another \$1,000,000 worth of work, principally for the reconstruction of the Lardner's Point reservoir, "will be asked for immediately." Bids will be invited on an additional \$3,000,000 in September.

**Highways:** Expenditures up to \$12,000,000 a year are contemplated, but most of this will come from the State motor license fund, together with Federal funds made available through the State. The city's share will be relatively small.

**Airports:** Loan ordinances to \$15,000,000 for extension development of the two airports are pending in Council. "However, we with interest the long pro-legislation, not yet acted by the Congress, to provide

I will appoint engineers to make expensive studies which will take months. Then the engineers will report back to the committee. It will be a report like all others. It will be expensive and nothing will happen. Mr. Mayor, you are capable of a better effort than this one. Go before this committee and tell them what you know about our water from the information on hand, and tell them to recommend to you and to council that legal machinery be set up immediately to bring good water to our people. Mr. Mayor, you are capable of doing this job. Go ahead and do it and you will receive the applause, the thanks and the gratitude of all the people of Philadelphia. You will be entitled to it, but you won't.

## \$18,000,000 FUND IS NOT ENOUGH TO FIX WATERWORKS

### War Forced Construction Costs Above Original City Estimate

By LEEDS MOBERLEY

The \$18,000,000 loan voted so hopefully six years ago to fix up the water works won't be enough to finish the job.

You can blame the war. But for the war, the program would be just about completed by now. As it is, the work has advanced far enough that there is no longer any immediate danger of a major breakdown.

### More Money Needed

But construction costs have risen so sharply in the meantime that it will be necessary either to cut corners on the remainder of the planned improvements—or go to the voters for more money.

So says Elbert J. Taylor, new Chief of the Water Bureau. He ought to know if anybody does, for he probably has been closer to the problem than anyone else. Until two weeks ago he was resident engineer of Morris Knowles, Inc., Pittsburgh engineering firm which is serving as consultant on the waterworks rehabilitation. In that capacity he has been working on its program since its inception.

### No Telling How Much

At this point, however, not even Taylor can say how much more money will be required. In fact, he confessed yesterday in his first interview since assuming his new job, he can't even suggest how much of the original plans ought to be carried out. "Construction costs have risen from 30 to 70 percent since 1940," he said. "There are studies under way now to determine how much these increases will add to the cost of the work still remaining and how the available money can best be spread out."

But there is another important question involved, he pointed out. That is the question of what Philadelphia is going to do about its future water supply.

### Source May Change Plans

If we decide to tap a "pure" upland source, we will have no future need of the elaborate treatment equipment called for in the present program, which is based on continued use of the grossly polluted Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers.

Mayor Samuel has promised a referendum on a new water supply at the May primary. The Water Commission's engineers now are making detailed cost estimates on a proposal to tap the Upper Delaware at Wallpack Bend, and also are preparing a report on what can be done with the present sources.

Taylor is 43 years old. He was graduated from the University of Cincinnati in civil engineering in 1923 and worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad for the following two years on bridge construction. He made his connection with Morris Knowles in 1925 and branched out into sanitary engineering soon afterward. He has been here since 1940.

"Despite the hesitancy and delay to formulate programs and adopt policies at the national level, State and local governments in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania have proceeded to be prepared for action that might be taken with or without Federal participation."

## WATER IS THREAT, LANGBORD SAYS

### Democratic Candidate for Coroner Warns of Disease

Dr. Joseph A. Langbord, Democratic candidate for Coroner, last night warned of the danger of drinking Philadelphia water.

"It is unfit to drink on the basis of taste, odor and appearance alone," he said in a radio address. "But the matter is far more serious than that. The latest medical researches support the suspicion that we doctors have held for years—that our city water may be actually dangerous. These researches indicate that our water, for all its dosage of chemicals, may be dangerous—that illness and death may be lurking in your spigot."

### "Raw Water Direct"

Dr. Langbord, director of the Deborah Tuberculosis Sanitarium, director of the Union Health Center and medical chief of Northern Liberties Hospital, also charged that "raw, contaminated water is pumped direct from the rivers into our water supply."

"The United States Public Health Service made an inspection of the Philadelphia waterworks last spring. I can state on the best of authority that it found raw water being used without filtration at the Torresdale plant because some of the filter beds were blocked up by silt and sludge."

### Blames Republicans

"Must we wait for another disastrous epidemic of water-borne disease before there is any improvement? The answer apparently is yes—if the Republican organizations remain in power. But there is another way. The Democratic party is pledged to give you pure, healthful, really safe water. This is a basic phase of our three-year program. The time for action is at hand. We will not wait for new epidemics."

## 3 Electric Pumps Ordered by City

Another set of steam-driven pumps used in the Philadelphia water supply system was on its way out in favor of more efficient electrical equipment yesterday when Mayor Bernard Samuel signed a contract for installation of three electric units at the Lardner's Point pumping station on Wheatstee lane at the Delaware River.

The new pumps have a capacity of 105,000 gallons a day, in contrast with the 60,000 maximum of the old steam pumps. The contract was awarded to the Kaufman Construction Co., whose bid of \$230,000 covers half the reconstruction work planned at the station. The money for the work is being provided from the \$18,000,000 waterworks program.

## DIRECTOR DENIES WATER CHARGES

### Says Langbord Assertion Filters are By-Passed is not True

Charges that "raw, contaminated water" is being pumped directly into the city's water system were made by Dr. Joseph Langbord, Democratic candidate for Coroner, in the opening of the Democratic election campaign last night.

Dr. Langbord declared this discovery was made by the U. S. Public Health Service during an investigation of the city's water system last spring. Filters and the Queen Lane pumping station were by-passed, Dr. Langbord said, because their beds are blocked with sludge and silt.

He added that city water, "is dosed with chlorine" and "isn't fit to drink under any consideration."

David W. Harris, chairman of the Republican City Committee, in a radio talk, accused the Democrats of raising "phony issues" saying that the candidates to be elected November 6—the Register of Wills, Coroner, City Treasurer and City Controller—have nothing to do with the solution of the water problem. He said the Republican administration is "bending every effort to speed to completion the new and modern water system which is being studied by the commission appointed by the Mayor."

Director Martin J. McLaughlin of the Department of Public Works, who is also acting chief of the Bureau of Water, said Dr. Langbord is "entirely wrong in his statements."

"No raw water is used in the Philadelphia system," McLaughlin declared. "It is all filtered and chlorinated. The Torresdale filter beds are constantly washed with

## Water System Of City Defended

Philadelphia's malodorous water can be made palatable and safe without changing the present source of supply, the Bureau of Municipal Research said yesterday.

In its weekly publication, Citizens' Business, the Bureau urged that the city compare the cost of removing the unpleasant odors of the current source with the cost of providing new sources, before deciding to abandon the present system.

### 200 CITIES SOLVE PROBLEM

"In recent years more than 200 cities have solved their taste and odor problems by superchlorination (using large quantities of chlorine in the water before it is filtered), or by treating the filtered water with activated carbon or with ozone," the publication stated.

"Philadelphia's most extensive experiments have been with ozone. During 1941 and 1942 the city treated Schuylkill waters with ozone and obtained excellent results in the reduction of objectionable tastes and odors, as well as in the elimination of manganese, which makes water brown."

### COST IS DOUBTED

The article added that it was doubtful whether the cost of softening the present supply would be justified, despite savings in soap and the cost of maintenance and replacements of heating equipment necessitated by the hard water.

The Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers can continue to provide all the water the city requires, Citizens' Business said. The "alarming danger" of water shortage in the Schuylkill below the city in times of drought can be eliminated by drawing more water from the Delaware, or from wells in South Philadelphia, or from development of Perkiomen and Tomsickon watersheds, it added.

machinery and are not blocked by silt.

McLaughlin added that the Queen Lane station or other stations are "by-passed."

"Similar charges, made last spring, were completely disproved at that time," declared the Director, adding that the city operation is supervised by the State Department of Health and the U. S. Public Health Service.

James P. Clark, chairman of the Democratic City Committee, called on Harris to answer two questions (1) what have the Republicans done for Philadelphia citizens and (2) what improvements have been installed in return for taxes collected.

## WATER BUREAU GETS NEW CHIEF

### Elbert J. Taylor Appointed to Job Formerly Held by McLaughlin

Director of Public Works Martin J. McLaughlin yesterday announced the appointment at last of a new Chief of the Water Bureau—filling a job that has been vacant for six months.

The appointee is Elbert J. Taylor, resident engineer of Morris Knowles, Inc., Pittsburgh engineering firm which is serving as consultant on the \$18,000,000 waterworks rehabilitation program.

### McLaughlin Pleased

Despite McLaughlin's complaint to City Council last fall that the job's \$8000 starting salary is "not high enough to attract 'competent' men, the choice finally was made from among 30 applicants. And McLaughlin had high praise for the man he got.

He pointed out that Taylor's work on the waterworks program (he has been here since 1940) makes him "completely familiar with our water problem in all its details."

"I am confident he will make a good chief because of his background and his familiarity with the personnel of the Bureau," the Director added.

### Vacant Since Sept. 6

The position has been vacant since September 6, when McLaughlin, who was chief up to that time, was promoted to Director of Public Works to succeed the late John H. Neeson.

McLaughlin tried in vain to get City Council to boost the starting salary to \$9000 in the 1946 budget, declaring other cities pay "\$12,000, \$15,000 and even \$25,000 for similar jobs."

### Gets Yearly Increase

The \$8000 will represent a boost of \$2000 a year for Taylor over the salary he was receiving in his old job. Also, it goes up \$200 a year to a top of \$9000 after five years.

Taylor, a graduate of the University of Cincinnati, worked from 1923 to 1925 as an engineer on bridge construction in the Cincinnati division of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and had been associated with Morris Knowles since 1925. He is 43 years old, married, has a year-old daughter, Phyllis, and lives in the Franklin apartments, Chew and Duval sts.

## Bureau Head



ELBERT J. TAYLOR  
He knows the problem . . .

## WATER WORKS FIGURE CALLED TOO HIGH

BULLETIN - 4/17/46  
Official says Pocono Plan would Cost \$120,000,000

Estimates of the cost of an upland water supply have been placed far too high, said Glen O. Kidd, secretary of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co., in a talk today before the Philadelphia Committee on Public Affairs at the Princeton Club.

Kidd, speaking on behalf of the Pocono Mountain water plan favored by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co., praised City Council for deferring action on a referendum until the public has further opportunity to study all plans.

"The resolution recently proposed by the Water Commission indicated that an upland water supply would cost \$285,000,000 plus \$63,000,000 for filtration and repairs or a total of \$348,000,000," Kidd said. "As a matter of fact, the city could have an entirely adequate mountain water supply for only \$120,000,000."

"By adopting the Pocono Mountain proposal the city could have one of the finest water supplies in the nation which could be financed and operated at a cost less than the present revenue received by the city."





## WATER BUREAU GETS NEW CHIEF

Director of Public Works Martin J. McLaughlin (left), former Water Bureau head, is shown in his City Hall Annex office, outlining the duties of chief of the Water Bureau to his successor, Elbert J. Taylor, whose appointment to the post was announced yesterday.

## Engineer Appointed Water Bureau Chief

Elbert J. Taylor, 48, a consulting engineer was appointed yesterday to fill a six-month vacancy as \$8000-a-year chief of the Water Bureau. Mr. Taylor, whose firm has been retained by the city for several years for consultation on water problems, took over a post that was vacated last September when former Chief Martin J. McLaughlin succeeded the late John H. Neeson as Director of Public Works.

### TEST MAY BE WAIVED

Under Civil Service procedure his appointment was provisional. Public hearings will be held to determine whether the job shall be exempted from a competitive examination. The appointee may take such an examination if he wishes.

Mr. McLaughlin predicted that Mr. Taylor would prove "a very good chief."

"He is thoroughly familiar with the \$18,000,000 improvement program," he said. "He not only knows the city's water system problems, but knows the personnel of the bureau and is in a position to do a great job."

Mr. Taylor, who is married and has a year-old daughter, resides in an apartment house at Chew and Duval sts.

BULLETIN - 4/5/46

## HORSHAM TO FIGHT RESERVOIR PLAN

Residents Raise \$7,500 Fund; Cite Loss of Tax, Colonial Landmarks

A \$7,500 fund for a legal battle against the construction of a reservoir as a part of the Wallpack bend project to provide pure water for Philadelphia was raised last night at a meeting of 300 residents of Horsham Township, Montgomery County.

The residents, who met in the Prospectville school, set up a committee headed by Fred Fowles, president of the township school board, to get the fight under way.

Under the project, water from the upper Delaware River would be brought by viaduct to a reservoir in Warrington Township, Bucks County, adjoining Horsham.

The reservoir project would inundate about a third of Horsham Township and a five-mile square area in Bucks County.

From the reservoir the water would be piped to Philadelphia.

Those attending last night's meeting were told that construction of the reservoir would require the razing of 1,000 farms and homes in Warrington, Horsham and Lower Gwynedd townships, and the destruction of many colonial structures, including the home of Sir William Keith, first Governor of Pennsylvania.

Fowles estimated that Horsham Township would lose about \$15,000 a year in taxes.

The committee formed at the meeting probably will first contact the State Water Resources Board, which has the right to condemn property needed for the city water supply.

## CITY WATER ADEQUATE, RESEARCH BUREAU SAYS

Could be Made Palatable, Safe with Treatment, Report says

Philadelphia's water supply could be made both safe and palatable with proper treatment, according to the Bureau of Municipal Research.

The bureau, in its weekly bulletin, Citizens' Business, said that the city should compare the cost of removing unpleasant odors of the present water with the cost of providing new sources of water, before deciding to do away with the present system.

"In recent years," the article stated, "more than 200 cities have solved their taste and odor problems by super-chlorination or by treating the filtered water with activated carbon or with ozone."

The article pointed out that Philadelphia's most extensive experiment was with ozone.

"During 1941 and 1942 the city treated the waters of the Schuylkill with ozone and obtained excellent results," it said.

## Ex-Judge Kenworthy Takes Stump For Utility Firm Seeking Unconscionable Profit

The Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co. stands to make a profit of some \$12,000,000 if they can jam their Lehigh-Pocono water project down the throats of Philadelphia taxpayers.

That sum would be realized by that firm for a few hundred acres of almost worthless mountain land on which it would be necessary to construct reservoirs and other facilities to carry the water to mains in this city.

Several weeks ago The Dispatch disclosed that a high-powered lobby was at work in Philadelphia, contacting officials in an effort to "sell" them the Lehigh Company's ideas on what is good for the local citizenry.

But now the utility firm's lust for that \$12,000,000 slice of gravy is out in the open.

None less than a former Superior Court Judge has taken the stump in favor of the Lehigh-Pocono water project.

Charles E. Kenworthy, a member of the law firm of Schnader, Kenworthy, Segal & Lewis, told an Optimist Club luncheon that the Lehigh-Pocono water was the only solution of Philadelphia's problem. He also condemned the Wallpack-Yardley project which would draw water from the upper sources of the Delaware River.

Kenworthy declared the latter proposition involved too many legal obstacles.

Said Mr. Kenworthy: "An interstate compact would have to be negotiated among Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York, and this would have to be approved by Congress."

He also brought the Army into the picture with the statement that "Army engineers have supervision over certain of the Delaware watersheds."

There are a few details, however, which Mr. Kenworthy took no pains to impress upon his listeners.

He failed to state that his law firm serves as counsel for the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, and that a juicy fee no doubt is in prospect if the deal to grab \$12,000,000 from Philadelphia taxpayers is successful.

Another detail glossed over by the ex-jurist was that there is no evidence that any difficulty would be experienced if Philadelphia sought to share in the waters of the upper Delaware. New Jersey and New York tap that source. Why not a municipality in Pennsylvania?

There would be no trouble what-

soever involved in negotiating Kenworthy's so-called compact with New Jersey and New York. And consent of the Army and Congress could no doubt be obtained for the asking.

The only drawback with the Wallpack-Yardley water source, were it to be chosen by the Philadelphia Water Commission, is that it would deprive the Lehigh Company of a \$12,000,000 profit.

Mr. Schnader, a law partner of Kenworthy, and former State Attorney General, is taking no conspicuous part in the Lehigh Company's campaign to sell its gold brick. He is engaged in representing a client who seeks to shake down the State for more than a million dollars for a worthless toll bridge.

Failing to get that price, Schnader has brought action against the State and in so doing has started a program to free all toll bridges.

Kenworthy, in a dutiful parrot-like fashion, echoed the cry of the Lehigh Company's own engineers that the Lehigh-Pocono project would cost only \$122,000,000, with an additional expenditure of \$20,000,000 if a larger supply was desirable.

Impartial engineers of the City Water Commission, however, put the cost of that project at between \$300,000,000 and \$330,000,000.

Speakers to civic and business organizations are also being dispatched by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company in its frenzied efforts to wrap up its proposed \$12,000,000 grab.

One such speaker appeared at a meeting of the United Businessmen's Association last week and was met with a barrage of questions, few of which he could satisfactorily answer.

But \$12,000,000 is a lot of money and the Lehigh Company will leave no stone unturned to pocket that unconscionable profit it seeks to make on the deal.

If and when the people of Philadelphia decide by ballot to change the city water supply, this Lehigh outfit will bear watching. With tactics as ruthless and brazen as they have to date employed, anything might happen.

## City Delays Referendum On New Water Supply

Philadelphia voters will not be asked to choose a new water supply for the city at the May 21 primary. City Council, in a two-hour caucus yesterday, decided to withdraw the water supply referendum from the primary ballot until full information on the various sources can be provided.

Council President Frederic D. Garman, who announced the decision, said that a substitute resolution would be introduced at today's Council session. Although he declined to comment, it was expected that the resolution would postpone the referendum to the general election in November.

### PLAN DREW PROTESTS

Several groups, including the Philadelphia Committee on Public Affairs, had protested against submitting the referendum to the electorate at a primary.

Mr. Garman said members of Council felt it was inadvisable to submit the referendum at this time since the Board of Engineers of the City Water Commission had not yet completed its report on the cost of the Wallpack Bend project for developing new water supply.

## JERSEY OFFICIALS BACK CITY USE OF DELAWARE WATER

Blessing Expected to Remove Obstacles to Tapping Upper River

By EDWARD STONE

New Jersey officials gave their informal blessing yesterday to the city's tapping of the upper Delaware River for mountain water.

The blessing was extended at a meeting of the Philadelphia Water Commission in the Midway Club. It presumably will remove a major snag from the path of the plan.

That snag was the commission's fear that New Jersey might block diversion of Delaware River water for the city's use. Possible need of North Jersey communities to tap the river was considered an obstacle.

### No Need in Sight

But representatives of the neighbor State assured the commission no such need is in sight.

Their views do not bind the State itself, it was pointed out by Samuel H. Rosenberg, secretary to the commission and to Mayor Samuel.

As for the State of Pennsylvania, officials attending the meeting said no applications are pending from any communities outside of Philadelphia for use of the Delaware.

### Project Is Favored

The proposal under discussion was the Wallpack Bend project, known to be favored by the commission among several to bring water here from upstate sources.

That project would dam the upper Delaware at a sharp curve in its course known as Wallpack Bend, near Bushkill. Eighty miles of pressure tunnels would bring water here, with an intervening reservoir at Warrington in Bucks county.

To arrange for the project, an interstate commission was suggested at the meeting to be made up of representatives of Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

### Power of Domain

The new commission would have the power of eminent domain to take any needed property in both States adjoining the Delaware.

By April 15 the Water Commission anticipates a report from its engineers on the cost of the Wallpack Bend project. Tentative figure is \$270,000,000.

If approved by the commission, that or any substitute project will be submitted to Philadelphia voters at the May 21 primary.

## N. J. to Let Phila. Tap Water Supply

Project to Cost City 270 Million

Tacit approval of Philadelphia use of the upper Delaware River Basin to obtain a clear water supply was given yesterday by representatives of the State of New Jersey at a meeting with Mayor Samuel's Water Commission.

During the course of the meeting, in the Midway Club, it was made plain, however, that the tacit approval does not bind New Jersey and is contingent on the future needs of New Jersey cities for a water supply.

### RESERVOIR NEAR BUSHKILL

Under the proposal being studied by the Mayor's Water Commission, headed by Herbert W. Goodall, Philadelphia would gain a supply of 500,000,000 gallons of mountain water daily under what has come to be known as the Wallpack Bend Project.

The project would create a reservoir near Bushkill, in the Poconos, from which the water would be piped to Philadelphia.

### CITY TO VOTE ON PLAN

During the discussion held yesterday it was suggested that a Joint New Jersey-Pennsylvania Commission be created by the Legislatures of the two States to operate the water source. The waters of the entire upper Delaware watershed are under the supervision of the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, otherwise known as Incodel, in which Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware and New Jersey are represented.

The question of whether Philadelphia should go ahead with plans to obtain the upland water supply or concentrate on a plan for improving the local water supply will be submitted to the electorate in the May 21 primary elections.

### COST TO BE 270 MILLION

If it is approved by the voters, and the project is carried out, Philadelphia will become the only immediate user of water from the upper Delaware Basin.

The plan calls for the expenditure of \$270,000,000 to construct a reservoir at Bushkill; to lay a submerged conduit from that place to Warrington, Bucks county; to build a storage reservoir at that place, and to install subsequent pipe lines to this city.

### ENGINEERS STUDY PLAN

With its completion the city's supply of water would vastly increase, since at present Philadelphia uses only between 325,000,000 and 350,000,000 gallons daily.

The plan is being studied by engineers, and a report from them is expected by the Water Commission by April 15.

### PRESENT AT MEETING

Among the New Jersey representatives attending yesterday's meeting were State Treasurer Robert C. Hendrickson, Joseph C. Paul, a member of Incodel, and R. M. Roper, Howard T. Crutchfield and William R. Connard, members of the New Jersey Water Policy Commission.

Also among those in attendance were Ellwood J. Turner, chairman of Incodel, and E. A. Pitkin, one of its members, both of them Pennsylvanians, and four members of the Pennsylvania Water and Power Resources Board: C. K. Weigel, W. E. Kirkpatrick, Albert F. Damon, Jr., and Gordon Mason.

# LEHIGH CO. INTENSIFIES DRIVE IN \$12,000,000 GRAB ON WATER

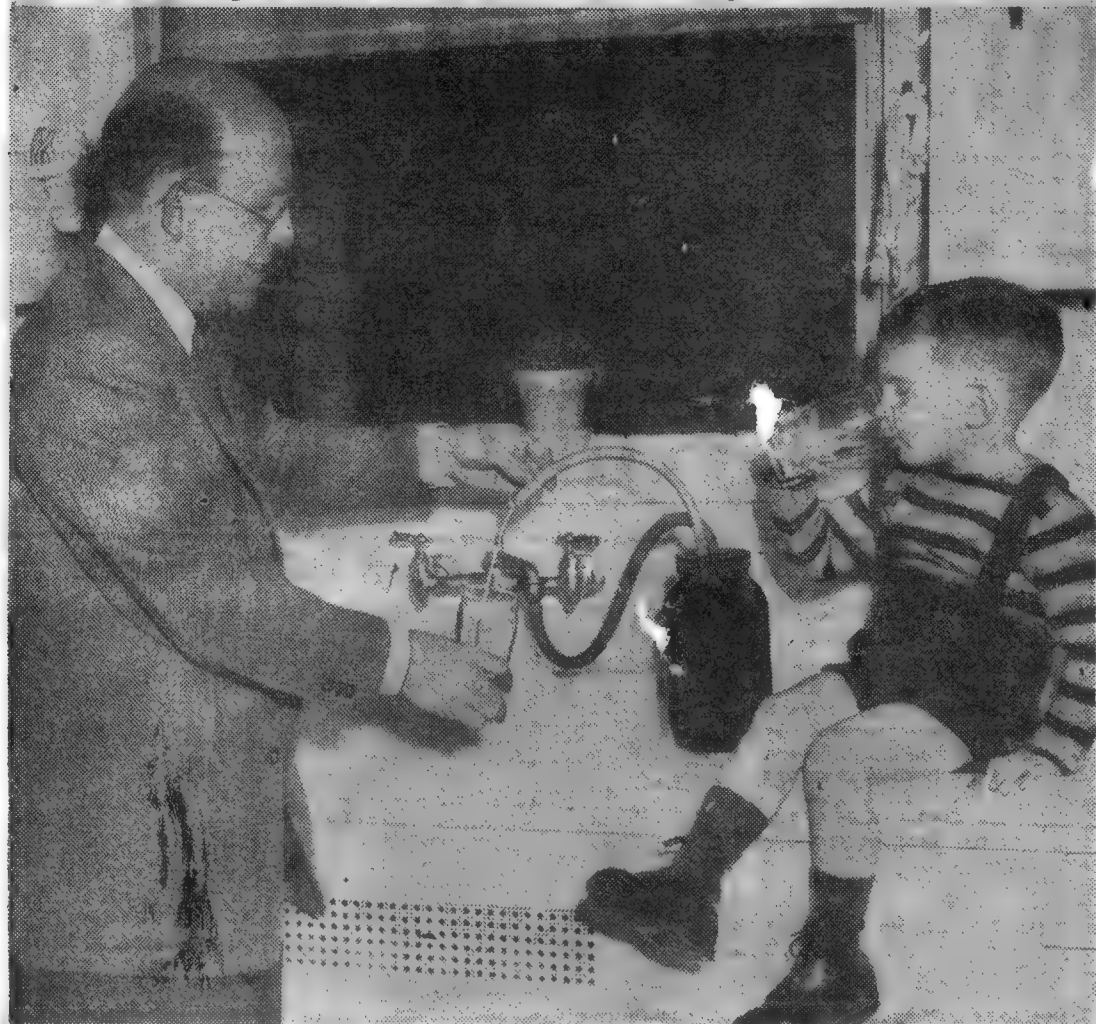
Philadelphia Water Department

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## Making 'Nectar' Out of Schuylkill Water



Albert W. Spitz, of 1543 Stevens st., assuring his son, Bobby, it's all right to drink ill-tasting Schuylkill water bottoms up when using his gadget that makes a drink palatable

## 'Spring Water' from the Schuylkill —and it's not Done with Mirrors

By MORLEY CASSIDY  
(Of The Bulletin Staff)

Find a way to take the taste out of Schuylkill water, Albert W. Spitz is discovering, and the world will beat a path to your doorway, carrying jugs. At least your relatives will.

Spitz, who lives at 1543 Stevens st., is a mild-mannered man who comes to a boil slowly, and for years he drank his daily quota of Philadelphia tap water with mutters and resignation. But being a chemical engineer, he had an idea that something could be done about it right in his own kitchen. And after considerable pattering around, he proved that he was right.

He emerged with a gadget which gives him, for all practical purposes, a mountain spring in his own sink.

The gadget consists of a two-quart jar containing filters and a mass of granular particles, and with two rubber tubes. One tube carries plain tap water into the jar, the other delivers the finished product—a stream of crystal-clear, tasteless water.

Since that first experimental model, Spitz has tried out other types and given them to friends for testing. Most of them report that friends are bringing jugs from miles around. Spitz himself supplies a long list of relatives.

The gadget, Spitz says, is strictly a taste-and-odor-remover. It has

nothing to do with purification, because Philadelphia water is pure as it comes from the tap. And that taste isn't chlorine, either.

"What you taste," says Spitz, "is a compound of chlorinated phenols and other organic compounds. And sometimes, of course, there may be a little colloidal iron. But none of it's harmful—just distasteful."

Water purifying has long been a specialty with Spitz, as he was formerly a chemical engineer with a company manufacturing filtration equipment to treat water used in distilleries.

His gadget, he says, embodies no new discoveries in the field. The granules which clear the water are a commercial product, chosen because they are more effective than charcoal, and more compact. The novel part of the unit lies in the arrangement which makes it small enough for household use.

Spitz estimates that one filling should treat about 600 gallons of drinking water—enough for the average family's needs for a year. In the Spitz family, five minutes is required each morning to produce the day's quota.

Spitz and a friend, Richard S. Kastner, of 6501 N. 11th st., are making plans to manufacture the unit, but Spitz hopes that he, personally, will soon be able to discontinue using his own model. He is now working in New York, and hopes to be drinking New York water permanently as soon as he can find a place to live over there.

# Don't Toss Away Our Chance for Better Water

[EDITORIAL]

Council members, at their caucus yesterday, did the right thing in withholding from the May primary ballot the water supply proposal submitted by the Water Commission.

But it is not enough to postpone action on the one-sided proposition sponsored by the Commission. That should be rejected entirely as virtually guaranteeing to deprive Philadelphia of better drinking water for years to come.

What is needed is a definite declaration, backed up by energetic and practical measures, of this city's intention to obtain pure drinking water in place of the vile-smelling, distasteful stuff piped from the Delaware docks that our people have been forced to swallow for years.

From time to time in the past plans aiming at establishment of new supply sources outside the city have been hatched, only to be talked to death or otherwise killed off.

We are in danger today of having the same thing happen again. We are at the cross-roads on Philadelphia's water supply—make no mistake about that.

Either we retain our present unsatisfactory system or we drive ahead for a new one that will give us the better water a modern, progressive city should have.

What is the City Water Commission's answer to the problem? A plan leaving it to the voters to choose between a supply of "safe and palatable" water from the present sources at cost of \$63,000,000, and a supply of "safe and palatable" water obtained from an upland source at cost of \$285,000,000.

What kind of alternative is that? If we can get the same quality water for \$63,000,000, why in the name of common sense would anyone favor spending \$285,000,000?

Allow that kind of a choice to go on the ballot and we can kiss good-bye to outside water for Philadelphia.

It is not possible that water of the same quality, both "safe and palatable" to the same degree, can be obtained from the Delaware and Schuylkill intakes and from uncontaminated streams.

The Commission had apparently assumed that when the two rivers are completely cleaned up and made free of sewage and other discharges, the water piped from them will be safe and palatable. But it does not state, because it cannot, just when that will be.

This city is itself only beginning a \$42,000,000 job to divert its sewage from the Delaware. No one can tell when the thousands of communities and industries along the Schuylkill and Delaware, many of them not even in Pennsylvania, will stop fouling our water supply.

The Commission's report would make an upland water source appear prohibitively costly. It mentions a \$285,000,000 estimate—without breaking down the figures or stating the source to which it applies. It says such an undertaking would require a 100 percent increase in city receipts, but it does not mention the fact that if con-

sumers were to pay twice what they pay now for water in Philadelphia the amount would usually be only \$16 a year—not an exorbitant price, surely, for decent water.

Additional light on the financial and other features of possible upland sources is badly needed before the people can intelligently pass judgment on them.

This is not to be construed as an indorsement of the Pocono supply plan supported by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, the Wallpack Bend plan, or any other that has been mentioned.

But The Inquirer believes that to rush headlong into permanent captivity to the kind of water we are now compelled to drink—even if it may be scrubbed up a bit in the dim future—would be a terrific mistake.

Don't just keep the Commission's half-baked proposal off the primary ballot. Call for expert re-examination of all possible upland supplies. Don't give up until Philadelphia has water that doesn't have to be dosed with chlorine to make it harmless—but water that is pure, sparkling, fit to drink.

## Horsham Raises \$7500 To Fight Reservoir Plan

Residents of Horsham township, Montgomery county, started building a defense fund last night for a legal fight against a key feature of the plan to provide Philadelphia with a new water system.

That is the proposal to construct a dam and reservoir at Warrington to store water brought by viaduct from the upper reaches of the Delaware River. The project would inundate about a third of Horsham and a five-mile-square area in adjoining Bucks county.

### 300 Attend Protest

More than 300 Horsham residents who attended a protest meeting in the Prospectville school also were told the project would mean:

Razing of 1000 farms and homes in Warrington, Horsham, Lower Gwynedd and Montgomery townships; the inundation of property valued at more than \$3,000,000; the destruction of many Colonial structures, including the home of Sir William Keith, Pennsylvania's first Governor; relocation of three or perhaps four major highways, and loss to Horsham township of \$15,000 a year in real estate taxes.

### Decide to Fight

By unanimous vote, those who attended decided to fight the project, and pledged totaling \$7500 to engage legal counsel were signed. The women and men who attended the meeting ranged from owners of large estates in the area, to small farm operators.

They set up a committee headed by Fred Fowles, president of the township school board, to get the fight underway. First appeal may go to the State Water Resources Board, which under a legislative act of 1943 has the right to condemn suburban or rural property needed for big city water supply.

Petitions Circulated

Residents of the area got their first idea of what the project would mean by a word-of-mouth campaign, that flew from farm to farm and estate to estate. Then petitions against the project were circulated, together with photostatic copies of a map showing just how big a chunk of the area would be inundated.

Among several speakers who condemned the project was Rep. Henry J. Probert, a Montgomery county Republican member of the Legislature.

George Letterman, assessor for Warrington township, which is in Bucks county, said petitions also are being circulated there, and that a mass protest meeting is planned for the near future.

## Water Interest

COUNCILMEN, perplexed by seeming citizen indifference to the water question, as evidenced by slim attendance at the first public hearing, may discover that interest will intensify as the alternatives become clearer.

Philadelphians would all like better water, but nobody can stir up a march on City Hall on that issue. Debate will probably begin when the public is told clearly what improvements in the water are attainable and at what prices, for all Philadelphians know also that better water cannot be had except at substantially higher cost.

No such thing as a perfect raw water is available for feeding into the distribution system. If it were, the current discussion of the possible need to renew the city mains suggests that even a perfect source of raw water would not remove all the dissatisfaction.

As the raw water approaches perfection, the costs tend to skyrocket, and, as with everything else, the public will be faced in the end with a decision how far in the direction of unattainable perfection its taste and pocketbook justify it in going.

For deciding that question intelligently the public needs to be told something it has not yet been told—the Water Commission's engineers—how much better the water from present sources can be made.

## SPONSOR DEFENDS LEHIGH WATER

ays Proposal for  
upply is Sound,  
Product Pure

Use of the upper Lehigh River and tributaries as a new source for Philadelphia's water supply, described by the Mayor's Water Commission as inadequate and excessively costly, was defended today by its sponsor, the Lehigh Coal & Navigation Co.

Robert V. White, president of the Lehigh company, said that the project will stand up successfully under every engineering study from the points of view of cost, adequacy of supply, and purity of the water. "Because we are supremely confident of the outcome we are awaiting eagerly the official investigation by City Council," White said. "We are sure our proposal is sound and will be found eventually to be the cheapest and best water source available to Philadelphia."

The Water Commission is scheduled to appear before City Council in caucus tomorrow to outline its recently completed survey and to answer any questions that councilmen may want further clarified. Their report, made public on Saturday after a year of research, estimated that the minimum cost for rehabilitation of the present system would be \$62,568,000.

In summing up the Lehigh plan, the report said it would not yield a sufficient quantity of water, that the water is unsuitable for use without filtration, and that the cost would greatly exceed the \$142,122,000 fixed by the Lehigh Company.

This White denied, and added that their plan had been developed by some of the most outstanding water supply engineers in the country, engineers who are willing to risk their reputation upon the accuracy of their figures and the engineering design of the entire project.



## Water Uncertainties

PHILADELPHIANS who study the final report of the Water Commission's Board of Consulting Engineers find no definite recommendations as to what ought to be done about the city's water supply.

The engineers had two questions to answer: Should the city abandon its present water sources? If so, what are the possibilities of getting good water from upland sources?

The final report deals exhaustively with the probable future quality of the present sources. The engineers seem to believe that a good, if not perfect, river water can be had if the city will spend \$62,000,000 in addition to the unexpended balance of the current \$18,000,000 water loan.

Hence, though the engineers neither predict nor advise, one of the alternatives before the city is to see what can be done through expenditure of \$62,000,000 of its own money plus the efforts of other river cleansing agencies that are now on the move.

In their preliminary report, made last November, the engineers stated that if the present sources were to be abandoned, a project known as Yardley-Wallpack Bend was their choice. In the final report major emphasis is rather strangely placed on another plan—the so-called Delaware River project.

Both plans contemplate a dam at Wallpack Bend, on the Delaware, but the Yardley-Wallpack Bend plan would bring the water to Yardley through the bed of the Delaware, whereas the Delaware River project would bring it to a dam at Warrenton, in Bucks County, through a deep tunnel.

The Delaware River plan, which the engineers say the Commission itself "selected for development" in the final report, involves a capital expenditure of \$284,000,000. The Yardley-Wallpack Bend project involves capital expenditures of \$137,000,000.

Sticking to the present sources at a cost of \$62,000,000, or going to the upper Delaware at a cost of either \$137,000,000 or \$284,000,000, are the three choices which stand out as possibilities in the engineers' reports. Either upland plan would probably give better water than the present sources, but whether it would be enough better to justify the cost is a question not answered.

When the hearings before Council get under way, it would be interesting to learn why the Water Commission selected the \$284,000,000 plan rather than the \$137,000,000 plan, or several others, for "development" by the engineers.

Meanwhile, the consumer will understand that water supply improvement, admittedly needed, is going to show up in his water bills. He will have to ask himself what he wants—better water from present sources, at moderate increased cost; upland water which will double his water bills (in addition to the sewage charges now imposed), or something in between.

He will not have to hurry to make up his mind. The subject is wrapped up in technicalities; engineers differ about it. A layman will need all the illumination he can get to reach a right decision.

## BULLETIN IMPORTED VS. DOMESTIC



## Connoisseurs Sample City's Water; Find Queen Lane Drink is Worst

Eleven connoisseurs of drinking water, whose taste can detect the subtlest of the vintage stuff rapping the sparkling Schuylkill to bottled water, got together today and cracked their lips over sample slugs representing the various sections of the city and suburbs.

Over some they rolled the liquid around on their tongues and rolled their eyes in pure ecstasy. On some other sips—well, they were not so ecstatic.

To keep you no longer in suspense, the water from Queen Lane, serving the northwest section of the city, was found to be the worst of all, with some of the judges appearing to have trouble getting their breaths after sampling it.

After drinking it, some of the judges' taste was so injured that they couldn't record any taste at all on some of the other water served to them; their tongues were numb—more or less. Well, maybe it wasn't as bad as all that, but anyway, Queen Lane water scored seventh among seven samples.

Commercial Brand First

First place went to a ringer; rather, a commercial table water. The testing was done under the auspices of the Citizens' Committee on City Planning at the Sylva Hotel.

It was very scientific. There were seven set-ups of water; in each there were 11 glasses. Somberly the jurors approached the ordeal. All they knew was that they were to drink Philadelphia water. They didn't know how bad it was going to be. They steeled themselves and each took a drink out of each of the seven set-ups. They tasted it all; and being brave men and women, they even swallowed it.

After doing all the tasting, they conferred among themselves, and when the votes were in, Morris W. Wood, in charge of the test, announced the order of the winners, or losers, or however you should measure Philadelphia water.

Second place went to the so-called "Springfield" water of the Philadelphia Water Suburban Water Co., Delaware County. This was Springfield water in the Narberth area; fourth, to the Fairmount Park spring water; fifth, to the water of the Belmont reservoir area, and sixth and next to last to the Torresdale water supply serving the northeast part of the city.

Wood said: "I think it is significant that the test came about as we expected."

## LEHIGH COAL & NAVIGATION CO. GETS MORE TIME ON WATER GRAB AS REFERENDUM IS DEFERRED

Twelve million dollars is a lot of money! And unless the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company stops "throwing its weight around" on the basis of that tremendous profit it stands to make on a water source deal, Philadelphia may find itself in the throes of the biggest scandal in its history.

The Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company is determined to foist its Lehigh-Pocono water source down the throats of Philadelphia taxpayers. How they plan to put that deal across despite engineers' findings as to the greater advantage of another supply, is anyone's guess.

But it remains a fact that \$12,000,000 is a lot of money and properly used can court considerable favor to any scheme. It has already been decided that the people of Philadelphia are not competent to vote on a choice of water supply in the June primary, as had previously been planned.

Powerful figures are at work "selling" the Lehigh-Pocono water source. A very small portion of the \$12,000,000 the Navigation Company stands to realize on the deal can provide for a magnificent payroll.

The Navigation Company maintains its project would cost the city only \$142,000,000, including the \$12,000,000 the firm would receive for a few acres of worthless mountain land. But engineers hired by the city declare that water source would cost at least \$350,000,000.

When one of the Navigation Company "salesmen" put forth the \$142,000,000 cost figure before a city business men's group, he was asked if his firm would undertake to bring the water here for that price.

"Well," he stammered, "we're not in that kind of business."

The fact remains, however, that the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company could procure those whose business it is, just as the City of Philadelphia will have to do.

There is little hope that the people of Philadelphia will get the water supply source which is to their best advantage. The Wallpack-Bend Project, which would take water from the upper Delaware, and which has been favored by experts, has no \$12,000,000 bait to put it across.

Last week Robert V. White, president of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, told that firm's stockholders there would be seven more years of prosperity. He did not elaborate on his prediction, nor did he reveal whether the prosperity would come from coal, navigation—or water.

Glenn O. Kidd, secretary and chief water peddler for the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, continues to add groups with the same old story of how cheap Lehigh-Pocono water will be.

He has the gall to do this in spite of the fact that Water Commission engineers have set the cost of that water source at almost three times the amount Kidd claims it will be.

Kidd applauded the action of City Council in deferring a referendum on the subject of a new water source until the people of Philadelphia are better acquainted with the facts.

What he probably means is the people will become better acquainted with facts AS PRESENTED BY THE LEHIGH COAL AND NAVIGATION COMPANY.

After Kidd gets through spouting off about how soft the Lehigh-Pocono water is, he may do well to read a report from an im-

partial source to which no \$12,000,000 profit will be forthcoming.

It states: With a definite program under way to reduce pollution in the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers, it seems pertinent to examine the remedies required to eliminate the faults that would still remain with the present raw water supply.

Popular judgment condemns the water supplied by the city because of its taste and occasional odors. Tastes and odors in water arise generally from vegetables and animal matter, and chemical and other wastes, not removed from the water by filtration, or from excessive chlorine, or from the reaction of chlorine on foreign matter remaining in the filtered water. In recent years more than 200 cities have solved their taste and odor problems by super-chlorination (using large quantities of chlorine in the water before it is filtered), or by treating the filtered water with activated carbon or with ozone (an allotropic form of oxygen).

Philadelphia's most extensive experiments have been with ozone. During 1941 and 1942 the city treated Schuylkill river water with ozone and obtained excellent results in the reduction of objectionable tastes and odors, as well as in the sterilization of the water, and also the elimination of manganese, which makes water brown.

Water from the Schuylkill averages 130 parts per million of hardness, and water from the Delaware at Torresdale averages 65 p.p.m. Hardness arises largely from the presence, in solution, of carbonates or sulphates of magnesium or of lime. Water with a hardness of less than 50 p.p.m. is classified as soft water and ordinarily is considered unobjectionable for domestic use. It is doubtful whether the cost of softening the Schuylkill water to below 50 p.p.m. would be justified, even though water users would obtain substantial savings in soap and in the cost of maintenance and replacements of heating equipment.

Taken together, the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers can provide all the water the city requires. However, in times of drought, pumpage from the Schuylkill has nearly equaled the flow of the river. This situation creates a nuisance downstream, as well as an alarming danger of a water shortage from that source. A number of solutions are possible. The facilities at Torresdale may be enlarged so as to draw more water from the Delaware; water may be obtained from wells in South Philadelphia; or water may be obtained from development of the Perkiomen and Tohickon watersheds.

Treatment of the water from the city's present sources can produce a very satisfactory water, palatable as well as safe; and continuation of the use of these sources will keep Philadelphia's eggs in more than one basket. Decision as to abandonment or retention needs to be based on a variety of factors.

Among the most important of these are the costs of making the present sources completely satisfactory versus the cost of providing substitute or supplementary sources that would be adequate and satisfactory.

In both instances, it is necessary

consider not only the capital expenditures required, but also the costs of operation, maintenance and debt service—also depreciation and replacements.

To sum up the whole situation, Philadelphia, through the expenditure of only \$63,000,000 could provide as good water from its present sources as runs through the faucets of any large American city.

With both the Delaware and Schuylkill being cleaned up, that project would seem the most desirable from the standpoint of economy.

But it is doubtful whether the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company will allow Philadelphia taxpayers to decide the issue from that standpoint.

Twelve million dollars is a lot of money!

Other \$10,573,600, estimated.

That adds up to \$10,573,600 plus.

The \$284,588,000 estimate for the Wallpack Bend plan figures \$243,151,000 to bring the water down to Philadelphia and \$41,437,000 for a new Queen Lane filter plant and distribution connections.

The Commission engineers said if they used the Lehigh company's basis of designs and unit costs on the Wallpack Bend plan it would figure up to only \$107,000,000.

## Wallpack Dam Questions

THERE is little doubt that all the engineering problems of building a dam at Wallpack Bend on the Delaware, to impound water for Philadelphia, could be solved. Whether the legal problems would also yield is less predictable.

The Bureau of Municipal Research shows that the full legal power necessary to build the dam is not now possessed by the city and cannot be delegated to it by the Pennsylvania Legislature alone.

New York, New Jersey, and Delaware also have rights in the Delaware water, and extensive areas of New Jersey and some in New York would be flooded by the Wallpack Bend reservoir. The right to flood them would have to be acquired, and after that it would be necessary to work out some way to insure protection of watersheds in New York and New Jersey from pollution.

As the Bureau remarks, these difficulties are not necessarily insurmountable. Yet it is obvious that no final decision could be made for a dam at Wallpack Bend unless the necessary legal rights had first been acquired; and acquiring them might consume several years.

## LEHIGH PLAN IS TOO EXPENSIVE

Water Engineers Claim Company Underestimated Cost

(Continued From First Page)

By LEEDS MOBERLEY to the northeastern city limits. That is as far as it goes.

The Commission engineers' confidential report takes issue with the plan on virtually every point.

First of all, the Commission's engineers accuse the Lehigh engineers of estimating the yield of water at 7½ percent more than the actual stream flow as recorded over a 16-year period.

They declare the reservoirs would fall so low at times that "many" hundreds of acres" of reservoir bottom would be exposed for extended periods. This, they assert, "would offer opportunity for the growth of vegetation which on subsequent refilling of the reservoir would produce offensive tastes and odors."

Would Need Filtration They report that the water itself, though comparable in quality to other upland supplies, still contains enough pollution, color, corrosiveness and turbidity (cloudiness) to require "filtration and supplemental treatment to continuously maintain a palatable, clear and altogether satisfactory water supply."

"Without filtration," says the report, "the average turbidity would be at least twice the average turbidity of water presently being supplied in the city of Philadelphia."

But the commission's engineers find all those considerations of secondary importance. What they regard as of primary importance is the question of cost. And this is what they have to say:

"The Lehigh Coal & Navigation Company has greatly underestimated the total cost of their plan for a water supply. Part of the underestimation is due to the use of inadequate unit prices for various classes of work and materials. Other underestimations occur because of inadequate design."

Disapprove Tunnel Designs

"The Lehigh Coal & Navigation Company has presented a condensed breakdown showing a few of the important cost elements. Among the significant items listed is 'earth fill' for construction of various dams. This is estimated in two instances at 70 cents per cubic yard, and in another instance at 65 cents per cubic yard."

"In September, 1945, the New York Board of Water Supply received bids for the completion of Merriman Dam in the Upper Delaware River basin. An item for 5,600,000 cubic yards of 'earth fill' was bid at 93 cents, \$1.03 and \$1.15 per cubic yard respectively by the three lowest bidding contractors."

The report suggests the Lehigh estimates must have been based on pre-war costs.

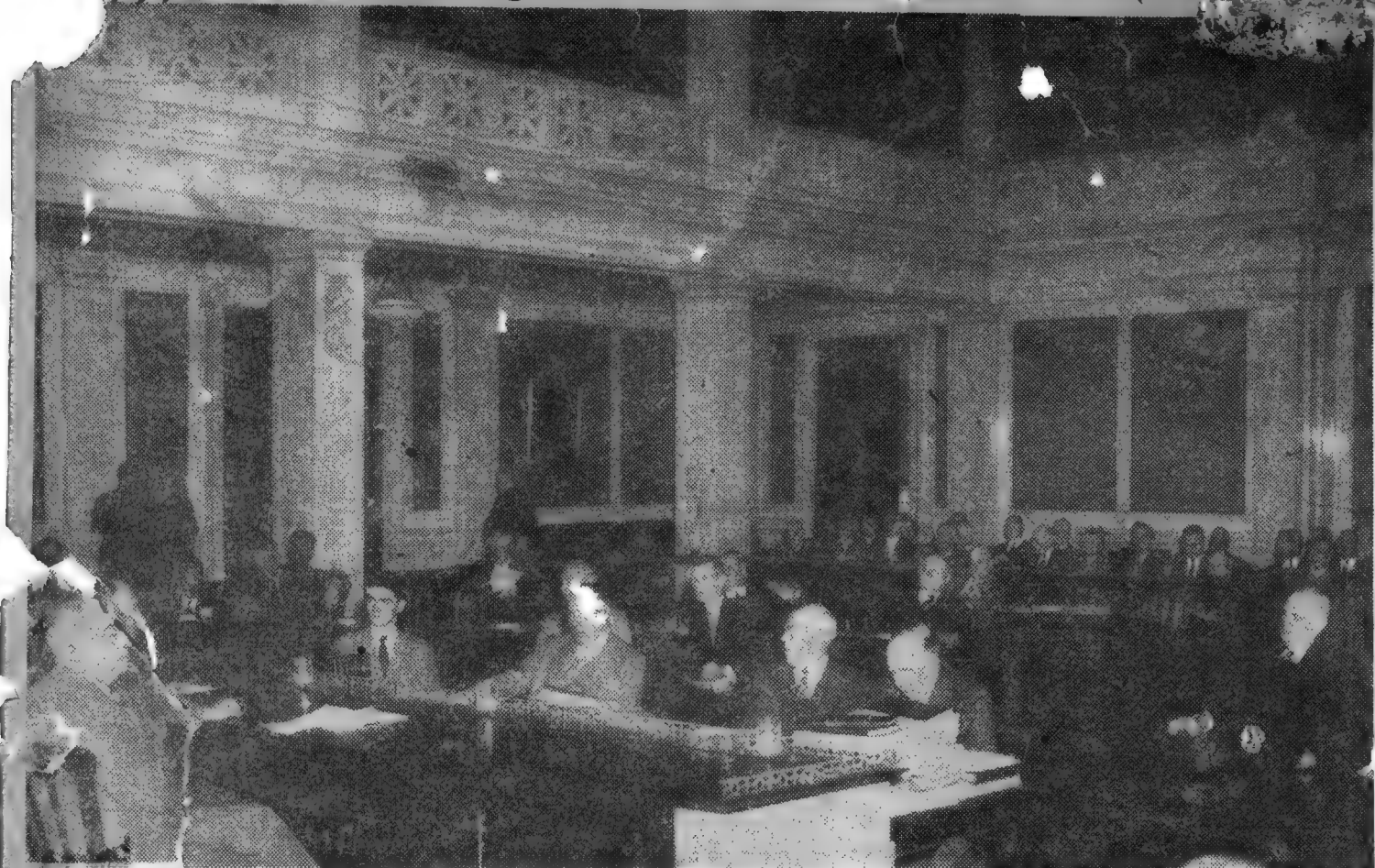
As for design, the Commission engineers disapprove the low-cost unlined grade tunnels, near the surface of the ground, which the Lehigh plan proposes to carry the water most of the distance from the upland reservoirs.

Favor Pressure Tunnels

They favor concrete lined pressure tunnels, deep in bedrock, such as New York uses, as safe, more foolproof and more durable.



## Public Hearing on Water Draws scant Crowd



Fewer than 25 spectators appeared today to hear City Council's Public Works Committee discuss improvement of the water supply. Two policemen were on hand to control the crowds anticipated in the gallery (top). At extreme left is Mayor Samuel and at extreme right is Director of Public Works Martin J. McLaughlin

With less than 25 spectators present, City Council's Committee on Public Works today began public hearings of plans for improving Philadelphia's water supply.

Regardless of what new source of supply is agreed upon, Philadelphia is going to continue to get "water" until the distribution system is improved, the committee was told by Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Bureau of Water. He said much of the 2,400 miles of water mains here are corroded and that water from them is going to continue dirty until the mains are replaced.

Today's hearing, and one scheduled for May 22, were called solely for a discussion of plans now being considered by Council. Another hearing, the date for which has not yet been set, will be held to give opponents of the plans a chance to voice their criticism.

A small attendance had been expected at today's opening session—but not as small as the audience which showed up. Two policemen assigned to handle visitors to the gallery in Council's City Hall chambers, stood by idly when not a person appeared there.

A majority of today's spectators came from areas in Montgomery and Bucks Counties which would be inundated if the Wallpack Bend project to bring water here from the upper Delaware River is the one chosen.

Chief witness today was Herbert W. Goodall, chairman of the Mayor's Water Commission, who gave a brief report of the findings of a board of engineers appointed by the commission to study the best methods of bringing water here.

**500,000,000-Gallon Goal**

Goodall said that the engineers were instructed to develop plans which would eventually supply 500,000,000 gallons a day to Philadelphia—the total which would be required here in the year 2000.

The engineers, he said, recommended two plans, the first being the Wallpack Bend project which would cost \$284,588,000. The second plan called for a project to improve and augment the city's present system at a cost of \$62,586,000.

The estimated cost of the Wallpack Bend project does not provide for replacement of corroded mains as does the rehabilitation estimate. The Wallpack Bend project, (Continued on Page Two, Column Eight)

Goodall said, would increase the water rents of the average household about 102 per cent, or from about \$8 to \$16 a year. The second plan would entail an increase of 13 cents in the water rents.

Goodall pointed out that the two plans were to have been placed before the city's voters at next Tuesday's primaries, but that Council postponed the referendum so that public hearings on the question could be held.

Councilman Clarence K. Crossan, who followed Taylor as a witness, said that since authorities agreed that it will take at least five years to complete an upland source of supply, City Council should, in the meantime, provide some way of eliminating bad tasting water.

In this connection, he suggested serious attention be given his proposal to abandon the Torresdale intake from the Delaware River for a new one to be constructed at Yardley. At the Torresdale station, he pointed out, water is taken at tidal flow, a condition that would not be necessary at Yardley.

"Philadelphia," Crossan said, "should not have to wait for a new supply system to get better water. It is imperative, I believe, that we do something now—not five years from now—to eliminate the reputation abroad that Philadelphia's water is bad and smells."

Director of Public Works Martin J. McLaughlin, who followed Goodall, told the committee that no matter which plan was adopted, "it's going to cost a lot of money."

McLaughlin also contended that water from any source—present or planned—is going to be "black as ink" after a storm and will require purification. Despite admitted inadequacies, the water now supplied Philadelphia has never failed to meet health standards, the director told the committee.

## Water Hearing

(Continued from the First Page)

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## LEHIGH DEFENDS ITS WATER PLAN; AWAITS HEARINGS

Says Proposal Will Prove to Be Cheapest and Best Source

The Lehigh Coal & Navigation Company yesterday rushed to the defense of its proposal to tap a new Philadelphia water supply on the upper Lehigh river and tributaries.

The board of consulting engineers of the Mayor's Water Commission has disapproved the plan as inadequate and excessively costly. As revealed by The Record yesterday, they figured it would cost \$345,000,000, not the \$142,000,000 estimated by Lehigh spokesmen (\$60,000,000 more than the estimated cost of the Wallpack Bend project which the commission favors).

The commission engineers' report in January but was never made public until the Record obtained access to a copy last week-end. In this report the engineers accused the Lehigh company of misrepresentation, improper cost estimates and "inadequate engineering design."

Robert V. White, president of the Lehigh Company, issued this reply yesterday:

The Lehigh-Pocono gravity water project will successfully stand up under every engineering study from the points of view of cost, adequacy of supply and purity of the water which will be made available.

**Welcomes Inquiry**

"Because we are supremely confident of the outcome we are awaiting eagerly the official investigation by City Council. We are sure our proposal is sound and will be found eventually to be the cheapest and best water source available to Philadelphia."

"The report to the Mayor's Commission, so far as it referred to the Lehigh plan, has been news since January, when it was filed with the Commission."

Nothing new has developed since then and there has been no further investigation.

**Appeared at Hearing**

"When we received the January report we gathered our engineers together and appeared in a public hearing before the Mayor's Water Commission and answered every contention made by them and repeated this week-end. Our report is a matter of public record and it still stands."

"We repeat that our proposal would bring to the city of Philadelphia pure, unfiltered mountain water at the rate of 510,000,000 gallons a day for a total of \$142,000,000."

**Risk Reputations**

"During the first 50 years it would cost only \$122,000,000. Our plan has been developed and presented by some of the most outstanding water supply engineers in the country. They are willing to risk their reputations upon the accuracy of their figures and the engineering design of the entire project."

"The Committee on Public Works of City Council has indicated it expects to hold public hearings on the entire water supply question. At those hearings we shall again show the desirability of the Pocono pure water gravity project and the correctness of our former statements."

**Charge Errors of Fact**

"We shall point out the errors by the Commission engineers amounting to millions of dollars, errors of fact rather than errors of judgment."

Among the Water

## Engineers Reject Lehigh River For New Phila. Water Supply

Experts Advocate Wallpack Bend As Cheaper and Better Source

### FOX CHASE WATER PUMP WINS U.S. APPROVAL

New Booster Station will Cost \$200,000 Including Buildings

A project for construction of a booster pumping station in Fox Chase has been approved by the Civilian Production Administration.

The total cost of the project will be \$200,000, including \$106,000 for erection of buildings to house four electric pumps. The station will be located at Lardner and Oakley sts.

The station will relieve low pressure conditions in the northeast and lessen the load of the Torresdale and Oak Lane stations.

The project was among 32 commercial and industrial projects, totaling \$1,265,896 approved by the CPA in the week ending last Thursday. In the same period 31 projects totaling \$2,022,828 were disapproved.

### City Speeds Work On Pumping Station

Work on the new electric-pumping station at Torresdale, which will possess six large pumps with a capacity of 200,000,000 gallons of water daily when completed, is moving ahead rapidly, Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Water Bureau, announced yesterday.

Taylor said the new station, part of the city's \$18,000,000 water-improvement program, will make it possible to make repairs to conduits at the Lardner's Point Station which cannot be done at this time without jeopardizing the city's maximum hourly capacity.

The proposal of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co. for providing Philadelphia with a pure water supply by damming up the Lehigh River and several of its tributaries was turned down by consulting engineers of the Mayor's Water Commission not because it would supply insufficient water but also because of cost.

That was learned yesterday as an aftermath of the issue of the engineers' report on Saturday, after a year of study.

**COST \$245,000,000**

It was disclosed that the commission had received a confidential report in January which estimated that the Lehigh Valley project would cost more than \$345,000,000—considerably more than the estimated cost of \$284,588,000 on the Wallpack Bend project in the Poconos.

The latter project, markedly favored in the engineers' report, was regarded as capable of supplying all of Philadelphia's water needs far into the future.

**8 PROJECTS STUDIED**

The Lehigh River Project and the Wallpack Bend project were two among eight upland potential water sources studied by the engineers, who asserted they were not recommending particularly any one of the several projects.

In their final report, on Saturday, they dismissed the Lehigh project by saying merely that it could not provide all the water Philadelphia needs if the present sources—the polluted Schuylkill and lower Delaware—are even partially abandoned.

**UNDERESTIMATED COST**

In the confidential report of last January, however, it was said that the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company had underestimated the cost of its suggested project.

That report said the engineers for the company had overestimated the stream flow of the Lehigh and its tributaries by 7½ percent. It added that if dams were constructed there would be times when hundreds of acres of reservoir bottom would be exposed. That would mean, it was argued, that plants would grow and that eventually they would give unpleasant tastes and odors to the water.

**GREATER TURBIDITY**

"Without filtration," the January report states, "the average turbidity would be at least twice the average turbidity of water presently being supplied by the City of Philadelphia."

The report also suggested that the estimate of costs by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co. had been based on pre-war figures for labor and materials, and not on the advanced prices of today.

## Facing the Water Problem

Quality of Delivered Water, Rather than Raw Supply, Not Stressed in Engineers' Report

(The Bulletin resumes today its presentation of a series of articles intended to give readers in brief and simplified form a clearer understanding of the voluminous technical reports compiled for the Philadelphia Water Commission. The first three of these articles appeared May 14, 15 and 16. Because of their importance to every resident of Philadelphia the series was suspended during the period of curtailed Bulletin circulation. The fourth article follows; the fifth will appear tomorrow.)

IN their discussion of the raw water delivered to the city's purifying plants, the Water Commission's Board of Consulting Engineers say that both rivers "are now polluted to an extent greatly exceeding the maximum recommended [by the U. S. Public Health Service] for raw water to be purified by rapid sand filtration."

These words seem to have been more widely quoted than understood. Their meaning is lost if the reference to "rapid sand filtration" is not given due emphasis, for Philadelphia does not at any point rely solely on rapid sand filtration for purification. Almost all the water passes through slow sand filters or is double filtered. Rapid sand filtration is the only filtration for some of the Belmont Water, but it is supplemented by chemical treatment.

Since the engineers were primarily

concerned with sources, they may not have felt called upon to discuss at length the suitability of the water after treatment, either now, or after anti-pollution measures have become effective, or after the installation of better methods of treatment.

A very important anti-pollution measure, of course, is the city's own sewage disposal program.

But while one searches in vain for a direct statement from the engineers that the water from present sources is suitable or can be made so, this seems to be necessarily implied. Presumably the engineers would not have gone to the trouble to work up estimates of the cost of making the "present system suitable for continued use," as they did, had they not thought that a suitable supply could be provided. If this is what they thought, it is unfortunate they did not say so more emphatically.

## Water Impatience

TALK in the councilmanic chamber of the need to do something drastic, right away, about the water problem is both futile and harmful.

Many Philadelphians very often find the present water unpleasant to drink. It is a safe water, however, and it has been used for a long time without catastrophe. Granted that improvement is desirable, the need is not so urgent that the city would be justified in cutting short its deliberations on what is best to be done or in adopting a plan whose chief virtue might be that the engineering work could be quickly completed.

Three to five years seems to be the minimum time in which the simplest of the proposals discussed by the Water Commission's Consulting Engineers could be put into effect.

The city might have to wait even longer than that for the most energetic anti-pollution campaign to get in its work. For the city's own sewage disposal program, the voters have only this week authorized a loan. Considerable improvement in the treatment processes seems possible, but it can't be put into effect overnight.

Wandering that water supply can be worked on the spot has the aspect of playing to the company than of thinking the problem through to a sensible conclusion.



# WATER ENGINEERS SAY LEHIGH PLAN IS TOO EXPENSIVE

RECORD 4-29-46

Lehigh Company Estimates Were Less Than Half of Cost

By LEEDS MOBERLEY

The board of consulting engineers of the Mayor's Water Commission figures the Lehigh Coal & Navigation Company's water supply plan actually would cost upward of \$345,000,000, it was learned yesterday.

That is more than \$60,000,000 higher than the estimated cost of the plan favored by the Commission, to tap a new source on the Upper Delaware River at Wallpack Bend.

2 1/2 Times Lehigh Estimate

It is almost two and a half times the \$145,122,000 estimated by the Lehigh Company's engineers.

The Commission's engineers made a special study of the Lehigh plan and presented their findings in a confidential report in January. This report, it can now be revealed for the first time, bluntly accuses the Lehigh company of misrepresentation, miscalculation, underestimation of costs and "inadequate engineering design."

None of this was contained in the engineers' bulky final report which was released for newspaper publication on Saturday. The latter document was an overall survey of the water problem which made only passing reference to the Lehigh Plan.

Must Tap New Source

It was, however, a definitive study which among other things corroborated the layman's conviction that Philadelphia never will have really good drinking water until we tap an uncontaminated upland source. It offered no hope of ever fully reclaiming the grossly polluted Schuylkill and Lower Delaware.

The engineers estimated the cost of the favored Wallpack Bend project at \$284,588,000. They found the waterworks so run down that if we keep our present sources we will have to spend at least \$62,568,000 on it. Even if we decide on an upland source, we will have to spend \$31,203,000 on the existing waterworks to guard against breakdowns during the construction period.

The final report devotes only one typewritten page to the Lehigh plan. It goes into no details but simply concludes that "this Lehigh plan will not yield a sufficient quantity of water for future needs of Philadelphia; that the water is unsuitable for use without filtration (contradicting one of the company's most-touted selling points) and that the cost of construction would greatly exceed \$142,122,000."

Say Yield Overestimated

The plan proposes to dam the Upper Lehigh River and from two to five of its tributaries, bring the impounded waters through an aqueduct to a reservoir on Jericho Creek and thence

Continued on Page 5, Column 4

RECORD-PHILADELPHIA, APRIL 28, 1946

## Philadelphia Must Get A New Source of Water

There is no sensible alternative to a new source of water supply for Philadelphia.

Many Philadelphians have been convinced of that for years. They are now confirmed in their opinion by experts.

Never can the city expect to get good drinking water from the Schuylkill and Delaware.

That's the most significant conclusion in the final report of the consulting engineers of the Mayor's Water Commission.

It could hardly come from higher authority, or be based more substantially on fact. The engineers are career men of national reputation in their field. They devoted nine months to the first really complete engineering appraisal of the city's water problem.

Of course, the present system could be "fixed up." The engineers cover that in their report. The system could be patched up just as it has been for years whenever the city took the trouble to do anything at all.

It would cost \$62,568,000 to restore and modernize the present Schuylkill-Delaware system, the engineers estimated.

If the Schuylkill were abandoned (almost inescapable, they indicate) and the city's water taken entirely from the Delaware, the cost would be \$25,000,000 more.

A total of \$87,568,000! For what? For more chlorine cocktails.

That would be throwing good money after bad water.

Phila., Fri., June 28, 1946

Cost of Good Water

FOR about \$91,000,000, as The Bulletin has pointed out, Philadelphia can assure itself of pure and palatable water without drawing upon distant sources. By the first steps of this expenditure it can get odorless, healthful water, devoid of any unpleasant taste, within one year.

The outlay is many millions less than the cost of any other solution of the water problem.

The overall figure includes the expense of increasing the daily supply to 500,000,000 gallons—a quantity not needed now or in the foreseeable future. That expenditure could be reduced to \$76,500,000 by providing only the required quantity of water. Unforeseen need can be met when and if it seems likely to arise.

What would the city get for the \$76,500,000?

For \$25,000,000 the Schuylkill, undesirable because of its unreliable flow, its hardness and the high manganese content, could be abandoned. Water taken from the Delaware at Torresdale could be delivered by pumps and conduits to the Belmont and Queen Lane filter plants for treatment and subsequent distribution to present Schuylkill consumers.

For about \$28,100,000 the city could make all the improvements included in the "Revised Water Bureau Program" not purchasable with the unexpended balance of the current water loan. These would include improvements to pumping and purification facilities, and extensions and improvements in the distribution system.

The heavily polluted lower Delaware and Schuylkill are the worst water source in the country for any major American city, the engineers reported.

And no matter how successful the cleanup of those rivers being carried on in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, they will never be pure enough to provide Philadelphia with good water.

"It is certain," said the engineers, "that much pollution will remain."

That should destroy finally any desperately held hopes that the city any longer can avoid its obligation to find a new source.

The engineers considered a number of proposals to tap upland water sources. It laid emphasis in its report on the Wallpack Bend project.

It provides for bringing pure water into the city through an underground tunnel from an artificial lake near Bushkill on the upper Delaware.

The cost was estimated at \$284,588,000. Some \$31,203,000 more would be needed for stop-gap improvements in the present system pending completion of the project.

Total cost would then be \$315,791,000. For what? A drink of good water whenever you want it, as far ahead as our vision can take us.

Does that sound like a lot of money? A prohibitive sum? Sounds are deceiving.

For it would cost only an increase of little more than two cents a day in the average householder's water bill.

Is that too much for good water?

Long before next November, when the water loan project is placed on the ballot, Council should conduct public hearings based on the engineers' report. If there are still questions to be asked, let's ask them and get the answers.

Then Council should indorse a specific plan for a new source of water supply.

Philadelphians don't want a project simply because it costs more than any other. Nor does it want the cheapest because it appears to be a bargain.

They want the best.

They are purchasing Philadelphia's future.

For \$4,000,000 the city could install facilities for taste and odor control.

For \$19,400,000, the city could have what the Water Commission's consulting engineers call the "future Water Bureau program," including universal metering (an important step if present sources are to provide the quantity of water needed); improvements to three reservoirs (including roofs) and extensions, replacements, cleaning and lining of mains.

The water obtainable from these improvements would not be inferior in taste, odor, or purity to that obtainable from distant mountain sources at a cost four to five times as high. And the quantity obtainable can be made sufficient for the present, the years immediately ahead, and perhaps for all time.

## WATER HEARINGS OPENED BY CITY ONLY FEW ATTEND

RECORD 5-15-46

No More Than 40 Present—and They Aren't the 'Public'

City Council opened its well-advertised public hearings on the Philadelphia water problem yesterday—and played to a practically empty house.

For all the criticism of the "Schuylkill cocktail" and all the discussions pro and con of a new source of supply, hardly anybody seemed interested.

Galleries Deserted

The galleries were deserted. The only spectators were a few men and women, numbering less than 40 at the peak and most of the time no more than two dozen, who sat in folding chairs at the back of the Council chamber.

And they weren't what you'd call "the general public." In the main, they were residents of Bucks and Montgomery counties who would have to move out to make way for the proposed Warrington reservoir. Among them, too, were representatives of various civic and business organizations like the Bureau of Municipal Research, the Pennsylvania Economy League, the Committee of 70, and the Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade.

Only Cynical Not Surprised

The small turnout surprised all but the most cynical, but the first hearing otherwise lived up to expectations.

Spokesmen for the Water Bureau stoutly defended the city's present drinking water. Lysle L. Jenne, the Bureau's sanitary engineer, cited figures to show that "average" pollution and chemical content of the raw water supply is within the U. S. Public Health Service tolerances; and he insisted that the water doesn't really taste or smell so awfully bad.

That inspired Councilman George D. Mansfield to blame the press—especially The Record—for the "notoriety" Philadelphia water has acquired.

"I seem to be unique," chimed

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1946

## Apathy of Citizens Revealed As Water Hearings Open

(Continued From First Page)

in Councilman L. Wallace Egan, "because I have never found anything wrong with this water; although I have lived here for 51 years."

This symposium of eulogy was rudely interrupted by Councilman Clarence K. Crossan.

"I hesitate to believe," he said, "that my colleagues are really convinced that Philadelphia water does not have a taste—an unpleasant taste—and a highly developed odor. I'd like to believe that is not true, but my own observations, drinking it in my own home, prove that it is."

Long Lines at the Springs

"We see long lines of people in Fairmount Park—and these lines are growing all the time—seeking water from the springs there that has no taste. . . . I think it is our present obligation to get a quality of water that is above criticism."

That reminded octogenarian Councilman Henry J. Trainer of the time he went to the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904 and the wonderful things they were doing with "liquid mud" from the Mississippi River then.

"How About St. Louis Method?"

"We went out to the waterworks," he said, "and saw this muck going through the treatment processes, and then we saw the water that was put on our tables at the hotel that night, and you couldn't beat it."

"They always said that if Mayor Weaver had seen the Weir system that St. Louis used we would never have used filters in Philadelphia. I wonder if we couldn't try the St. Louis method here."

Francis S. Friel, secretary of the board of consulting engineers of the Mayor's Water Commission, said St. Louis doesn't take its water from the Mississippi any more. It changed over to the Missouri in 1920 and is using filters now anyway. Besides, the raw water isn't anything like as bad as the stuff that comes out of the heavily polluted Schuylkill and Lower Delaware.

Temporary Improvement?

Crossan, apparently taking it for granted that the Water Commission's plan to tap the Upper Delaware at Wallpack Bend will be adopted, asked if it wouldn't be possible to effect some temporary improvement in the present supply as a stopgap. He pointed out that it would take at least five years to complete a new water supply project.

He suggested moving the intake on the Delaware River from Torresdale—where it is contaminated by Philadelphia sewage washed upstream from the heatsheaf Lane treatment

works—to Yardley, which is above the tidal flow.

Not Practicable

Friel and Joel D. Justin, another of the Water Commission's consulting engineers, said that wouldn't be practicable, for it wouldn't improve the Schuylkill water.

Friel finally agreed to make a study of the problem and have a report ready in time for the next hearing, to be held on May 22—a week from today.

Councilman Phineas T. Green, chairman of the Public Works Committee which is in charge of the hearings, asked all persons who wish to testify at the next session to send their names and addresses to William W. Felton, clerk of Council.

Referendum Called Off

Most of yesterday's session was taken up with a detailed and technical report by Friel and Justin, Herbert W. Goodall, chairman of the Water Commission, opened the discussion with a review of the Commission's studies and recalled that the original plan was to hold a referendum at next Tuesday's primary.

The voters were to have been asked to choose between the Wallpack Bend program, at a cost of \$284,588,000 (plus \$31,203,000 for stop-gap repairs to the present waterworks), and a general rehabilitation and expansion of the present supply at a cost of \$62,568,000. Council, however, called off the referendum to allow more time for study.

## ENGINEERS DOUBT WATER'S PURITY BULLETIN 6-26-46 Dispute Lehigh Assertion Pocono Supply Would Not need Filtering

Engineers of the Philadelphia Water Commission today disputed assertions by spokesmen of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co. that it would not be necessary to filter water drawn from the Lehigh River basin.

The engineers, members of the board of consultants employed by the commission to study plans for new courses of city water, testified at a public hearing of City Council's Public Works Committee, in Room 400, City Hall.

About 40 persons at the hearing heard the engineers speak in rebuttal to testimony given yesterday by spokesmen for Lehigh, which seeks to sell the city a plan to draw water from the Lehigh River. The engineers have recommended the Wallpack Bend project.

Approval Doubtful

"I am quite positive the Pennsylvania Department of Health will not approve a new source of water supply without filtration," said Francis F. Friel, secretary to the Board of Consulting Engineers.

Charles A. Emerson, a member of the board, recalling that company spokesmen had called the commission engineers ultra-conservative, declared: "We feel that they are over-sanguine. I don't believe we should cut any corners in the expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars."

Joel D. Justin, also a member of the board, said the Lehigh Company experts were "sailing too close to the wind" when they calculated the per cent availability of water in the Upper Lehigh region.

## WATER IS WORST AT QUEEN LANE, 11 TASTERS FIND

RECORD 6-21-46

Bottled Product, Suburban Supplies Win Out in Test

Eleven hardy men and women yesterday published their taste buds in an effort to determine just how bad Philadelphia water tastes.

When the test—conducted at a luncheon meeting of the Citizens Committee on City Planning at the Sylvania Hotel—was over, the unpalatable fact emerged: the water produced by the Queen Lane pumping station is the worst of a bad lot.

Even Samples Tested

To insure a fair test, seven samples of water were used—bottled water; some from the Springfield-Cheltenham area; a sample from the Springfield-Narberth supply; water from a Fairmount Park spring, and some from the Belmont, Torresdale and Queen Lane stations.

Morris W. Wood, who conducted the test, could tell by facial expressions when the tasters were sipping the Philadelphia product, which a wit once said is the only water in the world that "gives off dust."

Bottled Water Best

When the tests were completed, and the 11 sipped some strong brew as an astringent, these re-emerged:

First was bottled water won first; second was Springfield-Cheltenham; third, Springfield-Narberth; fourth, Fairmount Park; fifth, Belmont; sixth, Torresdale, and Queen Lane.

Philadelphia Water Department  
Historical Collection  
2004.019.0017A

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# **Ex-Gob Dips In Reservoir As Cops Fume**

**Arrest Follows 'Water  
Show' by Jobless  
Baker**

Sportive as a young sea lion, a 22-year-old ex-sailor swam for 40 minutes yesterday in the cold water of East Park Reservoir, 33d and Diamond sts., while a squad of policemen tried to lure him out.

Only because he finally grew tired did the swimmer return to shore and permit himself to be arrested. The charge against him is disorderly conduct by attempting suicide.

## **He Saw the Sign**

He is Edward Stoddard Barber, 2123 N. Stanley st.

He couldn't have failed to see the "No Swimming" sign, police said. Swimming in the reservoir is forbidden because the water there is part of the city's supply.

Barber and a friend, Alex Imovitz, 16, of the Stanley st. address, were first seen at 1.30 P. M. by Water Bureau Guard Frank Pierce when they climbed over the picket fence that surrounds the reservoir.

Barber, an unemployed baker, stripped down to his swimming trunks, dived into 26 feet of water and swam away, heedless of warnings from Pierce. Pierce jumped into a rowboat and rowed after him. But he couldn't row fast enough and so returned to shore and called police.

## **The Fun Begins**

Seven Park Guards and two city patrolmen responded. And then the fun began.

Barber, one of the best swim-

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# **Anyway He Had a Good Time**



Park Guards help Edward Stoddard Barber, in swimming trunks, through a barbed-wire fence atop a valve house at East Park Reservoir, in which he took an illegal swim. Inset: Barber's bride, Lorna.

# **EX-SAILOR SWIM IN CITY RESERVOIR**

**Arrest Follows One-Man  
Aquacade by Jobless  
Baker**

(Continued From First Page)

mers the officers ever saw, employed back stroke, side stroke, breast stroke and Australian crawl. He dived. He floated. He swam under water for half a minute at a time. He scared the cops silly by pretending he was in distress and drowning.

They had reason for their fears. For on the shore, Barber's friend, Imovitz, was explaining how Barber, out of a job and unable to support his recently acquired wife, Lorna, was despondent and had been talking about suicide.

Barber swam across the reservoir. The police, figuring he was about to climb out, ran around to the other side to nab him. The reservoir is a mile and five-eighths in circumference, and it was quite a run. But when the officers reached the other side, puffing and peevish, Barber merely swam away to another point.

Pierce had gone on his way, and the officers didn't know he had a boat nearby. So two guards piled into a truck, drove to Girard ave. on the Schuylkill, pulled a 300-pound boat out of the river, put it in the truck, and hauled it back to the reservoir.

As they arrived, sweating and red-faced, Barber swam easily to the shore and climbed out.

"I'm tired," he told Park Guard Sgt. William Jent.

Later, he told Park Guard Detective Sgt. Richard Donahue that one reason he'd leaped into the water was that he'd lost his job and had quarreled with his wife.

He will have a hearing at the Sedgley Park Guard House this morning.

# **New Fight is Made**

(Continued from the First Page)

opposed the plan because it would involve relocation of many Bucks County roads.

Questions Legality  
McCracken told the committee that he seriously questioned Philadelphia's exercise of the right of eminent domain in another county and that he proposed to file a memorandum with the committee later, expressing that objection.

Judge Ladner reiterated his previous objection to the Walpack Bend project on the ground that it is not sufficiently superior to that of taking water from the Delaware at Yardley and that it would involve interstate complications with New Jersey and New York.

On the other hand, he pointed out, adoption of the proposed Upper Lehigh River Basin plan would involve no interstate complications and compared its estimated cost of \$240,000,000 with the estimated \$360,000,000 cost of the Walpack Bend proposal.

"It is my view," Judge Ladner told the committee, "that if we go to the Walpack Bend, it will give us very little better water, at a vastly greater expense, than if we moved the intake to Yardley.

"If the citizens of Philadelphia want a pure upland source of water, in my judgment they should confine themselves to sources within the State of Pennsylvania, free of all interstate complications and so far as possible in a protected watershed that is not likely to be either industrialized or urbanly developed and which can be policed and protected by our own State laws."

# **NEW FIGHT IS MADE ON DAM PROJECT**

BULLETIN \* 6-11-48  
Warrington Officials say

**Water Plan will Wipe  
out Third of Taxables**

Location of a reservoir and dam in Warrington Township, Bucks County, in connection with a proposed new upland water supply for Philadelphia, will wipe out one-third of that community's taxable properties, township officials contended today.

They were among those heard when City Council's Committee on Public Works, headed by Councilman Phineas T. Green, chairman, resumed public hearings on various plans under consideration for providing Philadelphia with a larger and more modern water supply system.

Summoned by Robert T. McCracken, solicitor for the Bucks County Board of Commissioners, the township officials protesting the location of the Warrington reservoir and dam were George T. Tettemer, real estate assessor; Charles L. Murray, tax collector, and Edward T. Hancock, a member of the County Board of Commissioners.

## **Judge Ladner Assails Plan**

Earlier in today's session, Orphans Court Judge Grover C. Ladner, president of the Schuylkill River Valley Restoration Association, condemned the Walpack Bend plan (which involves construction of the reservoir objected to in Warrington Township) and suggested, instead, that a wholly state-contained upland source be agreed upon if the present sources of supply cannot be improved.

Tettemer, under the questioning of McCracken, told the committee that Warrington Township's total assessments are \$1,510,962 and that the 2,300-acre site selected for the reservoir is assessed at \$592,395.

Within that site, Tettemer said, are 270 homes and farms housing more than 1,000 persons, all of whom will have to find new homes. Location of the reservoir in the township, he also said, will wipe out two public schools, a parochial school, three churches and the entire village of Neshaminy.

## **Says Creek Will Dry Up**

Tettemer also contended that 35 to 40 miles of Neshaminy Creek will be dried up as location of the reservoir in the township, he said, will eliminate Little Neshaminy and Park Creeks, two of its principal tributaries.

Murray told the committee that the township would lose approximately \$13,000 in present taxes if the reservoir is located in his township and that surviving sections would have to have taxes increased to make up for the loss.

Hancock said some of the buildings that would be demolished under the proposal date back to pre-Revolution days and have been occupied by generations of the same family. In addition to this sentimental objection, he said, he also

(Continued on Page Two, Column Two)

# **COUNTY PROTESTS WATER PROJECT**

**Montgomery Board says  
Warrington Dam would  
Dispossess 1,000**

The Montgomery County Commissioners today formally protested the proposed construction of a reservoir in Warrington Township as part of the Walpack Bend-Warrington project as a new source for

While the protests were being expressed, a group of Horsham Township property owners listened attentively at the public hearing on new sources of city water, before City Council's Public Works Committee.

Warren F. Cressman, Montgomery County engineer, declared: "This project would dispossess upward of 1,000 residents and property owners, who would have to find new homes. Although the dam would be built in Warrington Township, the area affected would cover some 4,400 acres, with the reservoir virtually cutting Horsham Township in half.

## **Road Relocation Needed**

"It would involve a relocation of part of Easton road, as well as other State highways, county and township roads. Some of the latter would be wiped out. Old landmarks would be destroyed or inundated. Several bridges would be eliminated."

Present also were Foster C. Hillgass, president of the Montgomery County Commissioners; Commissioner Fred C. Peters, and Maxwell Strawbridge, attorney for the commission.

Peters said the commissioners were unanimously supporting the Horsham Township residents in opposition to the reservoir. When Cressman remarked that Philadelphia needs water and needs it badly, but reiterated opposition to the Warrington project, Councilman J. Wallace Egan observed that as he understood it, the commissioners and residents objected solely because it affected their property and their lives.

"Naturally," said Cressman, "that is the reason."

William J. Heffernan, international vice president of the Uphol-

(Continued on Page Three, Column Two)

# **Water Project**

(Continued from the First Page)

sters' International Union of North America, AFL, urged Council to give serious consideration to improved source of water supply with equally serious consideration to the cost of any improvement program.

## **Cites Rental Increase**

"The members of the union have little stomach for today's city water," he added, "but equally little stomach for a 25 per cent rise in water rents that would continue to supply the same filth and disease-laden water with the dubious method of more chlorine or extra processing."

Harry L. Clark, chairman of the water committee of the Philadelphia Boosters' Association, said Philadelphia needs a good water supply as quickly and cheaply as possible, and feels that legal difficulties might be involved in the Walpack Bend project.

"The estimated \$284,000,000 cost," he said, "is too large a sum for the city to be strapped with, and too much of a burden to carry compared with receipts."

## **Favors Crossan Plan**

He urged Councilmen to give serious consideration to a proposal advanced earlier by Councilman Clarence K. Crossan to abandon the Torresdale intake for one at Yardley, and suggested that the existing pipe system be used for industrial, street cleaning, fire fighting and other purposes, with new pipes bringing better water for residential use.

Charles A. Emerson, a member of the board of consulting engineers to the Philadelphia Water Commission, pointed out that the cost of virtually duplicating the present pipeline system would be exorbitant, and would necessitate tearing up every street.

Councilmen were urged to give serious consideration to use of the ozone process in treatment of water by Morse DellPlain, president of Ozone Processes, Inc., a subsidiary of the Welsbach Engineering and Management Corporation.

## **Describes Process**

Ozonation was described by DellPlain as a logical treatment for Philadelphia water, regardless of what the final decision is as to source of supply.

The Bureau of Municipal Research, through Robert K. Sawyer, a staff engineer, suggested a three-stage construction program which, it said, would involve an immediate capital expenditure of less than \$100,000,000 for water which would meet all quality standards except softness in one year, and all quality standards in three years.

## **Work in 3 Stages**

Stage one would include installation of equipment to remove all objectionable tastes and odors from water of both present sources, and to remove manganese from the Schuylkill River.

Stage two would provide for taking of all needed water from the Delaware at Torresdale, with part of the water going to Queen Lane and Belmont stations, and universal metering throughout the city.

The third stage would provide for future quantity requirements, and would include negotiation of the required compact and secure necessary Federal permits to the legal path for construction of dam at Walpack Bend.



## City Wants the Best Water Regardless of the Cost

The Bureau of Municipal Research has been a useful institution.

Like other institutions, the bureau makes mistakes.

We believe it made a bad one this week in recommending that the city abandon plans for a new upland water supply and stick to present sources—the polluted lower Delaware and, for a time, the Schuylkill.

Its staff engineer, Robert K. Sawyer, insisted at a hearing before City Council's Public Works Committee that a high quality water, without objectionable taste or odor, could be produced from present sources simply by additional treatment.

We cast no reflections on Sawyer's competence as an engineer.

But his assertion is in direct conflict with the most significant conclusion of the engineers of the Mayor's Commission.

These are engineers of national reputation—with no political axe to grind in recommending a new water source. They devoted nine months to the first complete engineering study of our water problem.

They stated there was no assurance the city could obtain good drinking water from its present sources.

They said there can be no sensible alternative to a new source of water supply.

There is every reason to believe them.

It is reasonable to assume that the purer the raw water that is brought into our system, the purer the final product that will run from the householder's spigot.

All water needs some treatment to make it safe or potable. The most contaminated requires the most treatment.

Thus, should the treatment system or the men who operate it fail, the results would be the more serious the more polluted the water was to start with.

With our present sources polluted by industrial waste, there is always danger that the raw water will suddenly become too foul for the purifying equipment to cope with.

Objectionable water could be in the distribution pipes before it was detected.

Going to the upper Delaware, to Wallpack Bend, as suggested by the Mayor's Water Commission, will not mean escape from all pollution. It will not end the danger of failure in treatment plants.

But it will be greatly minimized.

The Bureau of Municipal Research seems to be preoccupied with costs.

The bureau's plan would cost \$122,968,000; the Wallpack Bend project plus stop-gap repairs of the existing system, \$315,791,000.

The bureau's plan is false economy as long as it falls short of providing the best possible water.

Philadelphia doesn't want a high quality water at the "most reasonable cost." It demands the highest quality water—because cost will be too small to haggle over.

The Wallpack Bend project, for instance, would mean only an increase of two cents a day in the average householder's bill.

Wise people do not shop by price tag—only by quality—when even the highest price tag is so easily within their means.

Now is the time to provide Philadelphia with the best water. Not the next best.

We are going to have to drink it for a long, long time.

## Queen Lane Reservoir, 50 Yrs. Old Gets First Complete Cleaning

Deepwater Dredge, Hauled to Scene in 2 Sections and Reassembled, is Removing Tons of Silt

The Queen Lane reservoir is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary with a complete cleaning, the first in its history, and doing the work is a deepwater dredge hauled to the scene in two sections and reassembled by the crew of veteran river and harbor men.

In 1896, when the first water was pumped into the reservoir from the Schuylkill River, the huge, rectangular basin could hold 177 million gallons. By last November, when the cleaning project was started, its capacity had been reduced by more than half and 16 of the 36 feet depth held an estimated 350,000 tons of silt and mud.

### Welded Together Again

To remove this gigantic deposit and yet keep the reservoir in operation was a problem that was solved only after months of planning by city officials and the entire staff of the Eastern Engineering Co., Atlantic City. The same firm last year cleaned the Torresdale Reservoir by dredging, but the basin's proximity to the Delaware River made it a

simple matter to bring the large dredge to the scene of operations.

It was finally decided to house the dredging machinery on a new steel hull, haul it in sections from Atlantic City to the Queen Lane basin and weld it together as it arrived. The scheme worked. Crew members raised an American flag on the rigging, unofficially dubbed their craft the "Big Queen," and started dredging.

To eliminate gas and oil exhausts into the reservoir the dredge is electrically powered. A flexible, 16-inch pipe with steel cutting blades digs into the sediment and it is discharged through several thousand feet of tubing which snake after the dredge on cylindrical pontoons.

The dredge crew, most of whom can close their eyes and describe every river and harbor along the east coast in detail, admit that they still feel startled when they scan the horizon only to see cars and buses rolling along Henry av. or Fox st. Working shift work, they sleep aboard, but go "ashore" either by walking atop the discharge pipes

## Flagship of Queen Lane Navy



Deepwater dredge "Big Queen" rides at anchor in Queen Lane Reservoir where her job is to dislodge 350,000 tons of silt and mud

or by pulling at the oars of a small boat.

To show the reservoir's part in the water system, Joseph E. Gill, the Water Bureau's principal assistant engineer, scooped up a beaker of water as it entered the basin from the Schuylkill. In this he dropped a few grains of aluminum sulphate.

### Remove Up to 90% of Solids

"By doing this on a large scale, we remove up to 90 per cent of the floating solids from the water," he explained. "These impurities settle at the bottom of the basin and since Schuylkill River water has an average of 830 pounds of suspended solids for each million gallons of water you can see how such a deposit of silt could be built up in 50 years.

"This is the first, and a very important, step in water purification," Gill continued. "Clearing of the basin materially will improve operating conditions and quality of water at the Queen Lane filters and, since the State and the Federal Government are about to embark upon a joint project to clean up the entire length of the Schuylkill, the probability of any future silting of the basin here will be eliminated."

Contract specifications require that the work be carried out in such a manner as to cause no increase in the cloudiness of the water as it leaves the basin and daily tests show that this has not occurred despite the action of the dredging equipment. Nor has there been any interruption in service, water officials point out.

### Serves 600,000 in Area

Serving as it does more than 600,000 users in an area bounded by Hunting Park av., south to the Navy Yard, and from the Schuylkill east to Broad st., the Queen Lane plant is the largest and most important in the city's system. Officials say, too, that it will be the key facility no matter what source of future water supply is selected for the city.

What threatened to be the biggest problem connected with the project—that of disposing of the silt, was turned into an asset when Martin McLaughlin, Director of Public Works, ordered it used to fill in the area on the west side of the reservoir.

filter plants.

To hold the almost fluid silt a perimeter of high earthen dikes was pushed up by steamshovels and bulldozers and special manholes erected. These manholes permit the water to pass into the sewers through wire covered inlets which are plugged up as the level of the ground rises.

### Silt Could Fill Large Area

Director McLaughlin said the area from Fox av. to the Chestnut Hill branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and between Queen Lane and Crawford st. could be filled to street level with the reservoir silt. New water treatment buildings will be added to those on the site and the entire area landscaped, he added.

Most of the undertaking, \$520,000, will be paid for out of the \$18,000,000 loan for water system improvement.

Both McLaughlin and Gill expect the Queen Lane cleaning to be completed by the end of June and disclosed they are contemplating similar operations in the Roxborough Reservoir.

## Report to the People—No. 9

# Council Votes Funds For Water, Highway, Playground Projects

(This is the ninth in a series of reports to the people of Philadelphia, presented by The Inquirer from time to time on the progress being made on post-war improvements.)

CITY COUNCIL stepped up the pace of Philadelphia's vast civic improvement program during July.

The month's program was highlighted by the voting of \$10,170,500 for improvement of the city's three filtration and pumping stations, necessary prelude to any new water supply for the city.

But Council also launched a \$6,000,000 street repair and highway extension program, prepared to vastly expand playgrounds and recreational facilities, and submitted ordinances for major projects under the \$78,200,000 loan bills approved by the voters in May.

One of the obstacles to the improvement program, it was shown during July, is the city government's lack of revenue comparable to the size and wealth of Philadelphia.

A survey prepared by The Inquirer showed that Philadelphia's tax revenue is little more than that collected by cities one-third its size, while its income from Federal and State contributions is infinitesimal compared to that of other major American cities.

Major developments in city improvements during July include:

### Water

Project authorized by the \$10,170,500 made available by Council are expected to bring some improvement in Philadelphia's water supply within six months, although they will require nearly three years to complete.

Plans drafted by Director of Public Works Martin J. McLaughlin allot \$5,993,500 to the Queen Lane pumping station, which filters water from the Schuylkill. This sum will permit construction of a new pre-treatment plant with a capacity of 120,000,000 gallons a day as well as the rehabilitation of mechanical filter beds and the installation of carbon feeding equipment.

"Schuylkill Punch" long has been rated the worst of Philadelphia's present water supply because of its magnesium content. Engineers believe that new equipment and filtration methods will make this water as safe, palatable and appetizing as any other.

Another \$3,722,000 was appropriated for the Belmont pumping station, where carbon pre-treatment equipment also will be installed. A high pressure station will be removed to a new location at 52d st. and Parkside ave.

The remaining \$455,000 goes to the Torresdale pumping station for minor changes of a similar nature.

Council's decision on these projects will bring the quickest possible improvement in the city's water supply. It will have an important bearing on other decisions still to be made.

The Water Commission appointed by Mayor Bernard Samuel is presently rewriting its report on nine proposed new water sources for Philadelphia. This report is expected to be submitted to Council early in August. The commission already has recommended, unofficially, that Council choose the new source, without submitting the question to public referendum.

Members of the commission believe that because of the technical problems involved it would be difficult for the electorate to make a wise choice.

Whichever of the new sources is chosen by City Council, the water supply will be filtered and treated. Thus, the funds now being expended on improvement of the filtration plants will prepare them for service in connection with the new water source.



# Many Proposals for Supply Submitted, But Officials Have No Agreed Program

Hearings Fail To Arouse Consumers

First of a Series

By Richard J. O'Keefe

Philadelphia water for many years has been a bitter subject of discussion by residents of the city and the butt of barbed jokes by visitors whose olfactory and taste sensibilities have been subjected to rude shock on introduction to a glass of it.

For nearly two generations, Philadelphians have listened to proposals to provide them with fresh, untampered mountain water from so-called "upland sources." These suggestions, however, have not yet resulted in a definite program.

## COMMISSION NAMED

Currently, the subject is again a matter of study by city officials. Mayor Bernard Samuel last year appointed a Water Commission to crystallize all thought on a new source of water for the city.

The Commission appointed a Board of Consulting Engineers to study the various proposals and to make expert recommendations. Although the latter has favored a program looking to a supply from the upper Delaware River, no final report has been made by the Commission.

A number of proposals have been submitted. Several are variations of the program that has received the nod of the consulting engineers. A plan that discards the Delaware River suggestion of the Commission Engineers has been advanced by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, which advances the Upper Lehigh River as a water source.

## PUBLIC CONFUSED

The variety of proposals submitted has resulted in confusing the thought of many Philadelphians. Water users who, despite protests at public hearings, have only vague ideas of what each plan entails.

The Inquirer, in an effort to present a clear picture of the discussions during the past year, has conducted an extended survey of the various proposals, which it will discuss in this series.

Members of City Council and of the Water Commission, convinced when they undertook the studies of the imperative demand of Philadelphians for an unpolluted water supply, suffered a setback in their enthusiasm by the apparent lack of interest on the part of water users in the procedures.

## FEW IN ATTENDANCE

At not one of the many public hearings was there more than sparse attendance of interested Philadelphians. It was unnecessary to hang out the "standing room only" sign at the doors of chambers in which the hearings were conducted.

Attendance generally was limited to experts reporting on the various plans and the individuals whose properties would be adversely affected if certain specific proposals were accepted.

In instituting the studies, city officials contemplated placing before the voters this fall the question of a new "upland" source. In view of the large amounts of money that would have to be expended, they felt the matter should be determined by the voters.

## NO CONCENTRATED EFFORT

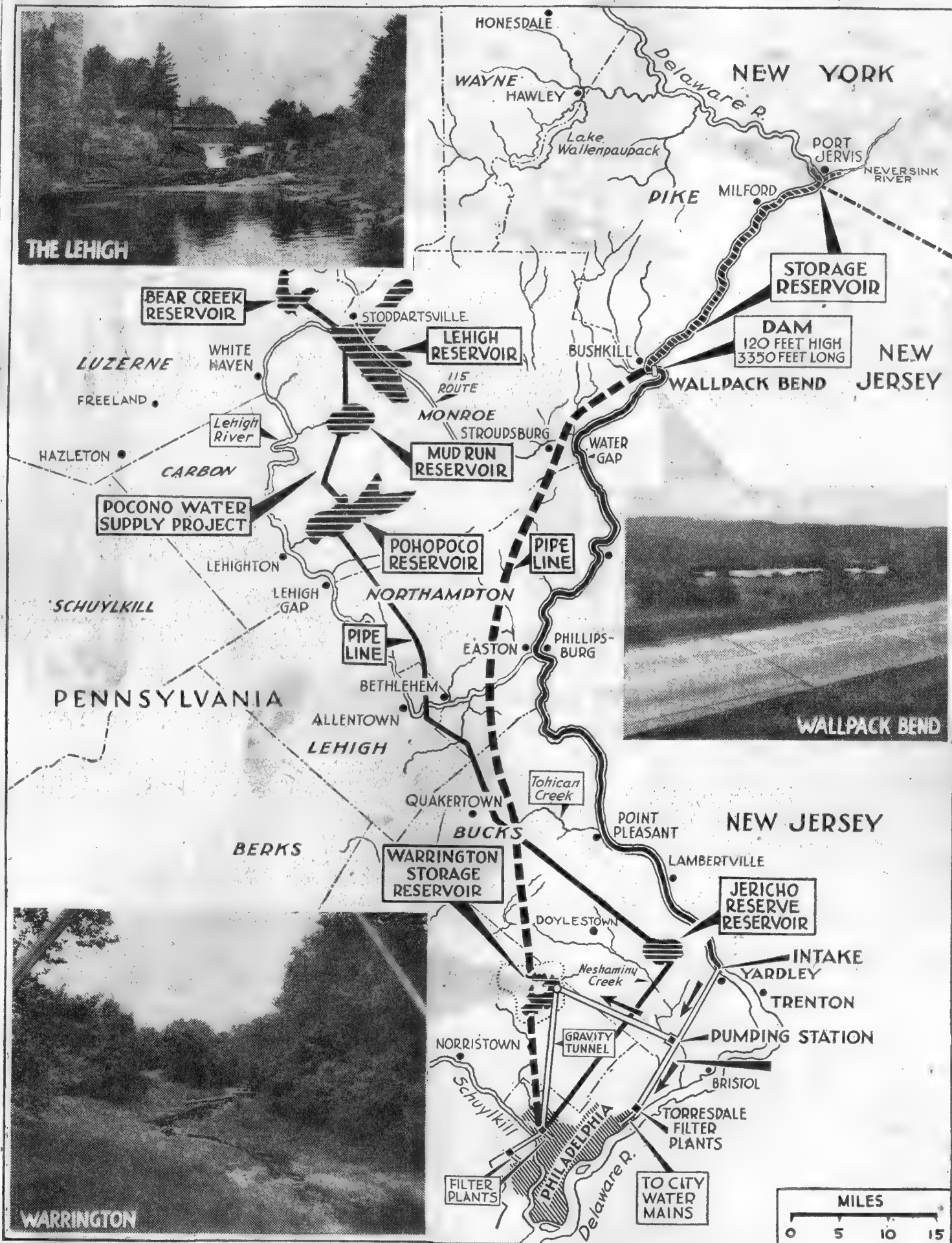
Interpreting the apparent indifference of Philadelphians to the immediate solution of the problem as evidenced by the small public attendance at meetings as an indication a new water source is not so poignant as they had first believed, no concentrated effort was advanced to push the matter through to a vote this year.

The opposite and adamant positions taken by the Water Commission engineers and the experts of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company was another reason for more deliberate action on the part of city officials.

## NOT ON BALLOT

As the matter stands, there will be no water vote in the city lot this year. If it is not done in setting a new water policy before the election of 1946, City Council will have to make the decision.

The officials on whom rests the responsibility for the expenditure of more than two hundred million dollars if a new "upland" source is to be used, are practical politicians. It is probable that they would hesitate to accept the responsibility of such a program in view of the indifference of the water users—their decision is too nebulous, they feel, translated into votes.



## RIVAL PLANS FOR NEW UPLAND PHILADELPHIA WATER SUPPLY

The above chart presents the two major plans that have been advanced to provide Philadelphia with upland water. The inset pictures illustrate the terrain in the area of the Lehigh Reservoir (upper left), the Wallpack Bend Dam (right center) and the Warrington Reservoir (lower left). The plan using the waters of the Upper Delaware by creating a reservoir 30 miles between Wallpack Bend and Port Jervis, N. Y., is indorsed by engineers of the Philadelphia Water Com-

mission. It offers two means of bringing the water to Warrington: by pressure tunnel (shown in the chart by the broken line) passing near Stroudsburg, and by use of the river to Yardley. The use of the Lehigh River is suggested by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, which proposes four reservoirs on the upper river and a gravity tunnel (shown by the unbroken line) passing near Bethlehem to the Jericho Reservoir east of Doylestown. Eight plans in all have been advanced.

## EIGHT PLANS ADVANCED

Although some eight plans for a new water supply have been advanced during the hearings, the leading rivals for acceptance are those advanced by the Water Commission engineers and of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company.

Also in the front ranks for recognition is the suggestion of the Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade, which opposes any "upland" source as too expensive. It proposes moving the Delaware River intake further upstream north of Trenton, to eliminate much of the pollution entering below that city.

(Continued Tomorrow)

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# Delaware Plan Faces Series of Fights

## Landowners To Oppose Reservoir

Second of a Series

By Richard J. O'Neil

The Delaware River plan of the board of consulting engineers of the Philadelphia Water Commission seems headed towards a series of legal and legislative complications—not the least of which will be advanced by affected landowners—in the event the board's suggestions are adopted.

Essential parts of the Delaware River project involve creation of a reservoir running 30 miles north from Wallpack Bend Dam to Bushkill to the New York State line at Port Jervis and a storage reservoir at Warrington in Bucks and Montgomery counties.

### TWO-FOLD PROPOSAL

The proposal of the engineers is two-fold concerning the method by which the water would be moved from the Wallpack Bend Reservoir to the Warrington Storage Reservoir. The first method would be by means of a pressure tunnel extending nearly 82 miles. The proposal known as the Delaware River Project for purposes of identification will cost an estimated \$284,588,000.

Under the alternate plan, known as the Yardley-Wallpack Bend Project, the engineers suggest that while retaining both the Wallpack Bend Reservoir and the Warrington Reservoir, the water could be dropped down the natural bed of the Delaware River to Yardley north of Trenton. From there it would be moved by tunnel to Warrington. This project, they estimate, will cost \$137,456,000.

### SPLITS TWO RANGES

The 30-mile projected reservoir above Wallpack Bend lies in a valley separating two mountain ranges, the Pocono Mountain Range in Pennsylvania and the Kittatinny Mountain Range in New Jersey.

Pennsylvania shares with New York and New Jersey the rights to the Delaware River and the disposition of its waters is regulated by treaties between the three States made in 1873, a Tri-State compact, an amendment of which, according to some authorities, would require approval of Congress and consent of the War Department.

### LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Opponents of the Delaware River project and its alternate maintain legislative action also would be required by three States to repeal the original treaties of 1783.

The Wallpack Bend Dam would back up the Delaware River to the bridge connecting Matamoras in Pennsylvania and Port Jervis in New York and also would create a higher level of water in the Neversink River which joins the Delaware at a point where the boundaries of three States meet at what is known as Tri-State Rock. The reservoir would run about two miles northwestward up the Neversink in New York.

### 14,000 ACRES NEEDED

For much of the length the reservoir lake would be one-half mile wide and would cover an area of approximately 9500 acres. Of that acreage 4950 would be located in Pennsylvania, 4225 in New Jersey and 325 in New York. Including a 500-foot protective strip along the reservoir lake, it would be necessary for Philadelphia to acquire up to 14,000 acres in the three States.

Of the acreage to be acquired, the engineers estimated that cultivated land would amount to 2686 in Pennsylvania, 1794 in New Jersey and 204 in New York. Uncultivated land, property subject to flooding and land necessary for the 500-foot protective strip would make it necessary for the city to buy an additional 4243 acres in Pennsylvania, 4095 acres in New Jersey and 247 acres in New York.

### WOULD FLOOD BUSHKILL

Bushkill, a prosperous summer and winter resort, located opposite the site of the proposed Wallpack Bend Dam, would be almost entirely inundated by the waters of the reservoir. A good portion of Dingman's Ferry, eight miles north, also would be flooded as would a small part of Milford, the largest town between Stroudsburg and the New York State line.

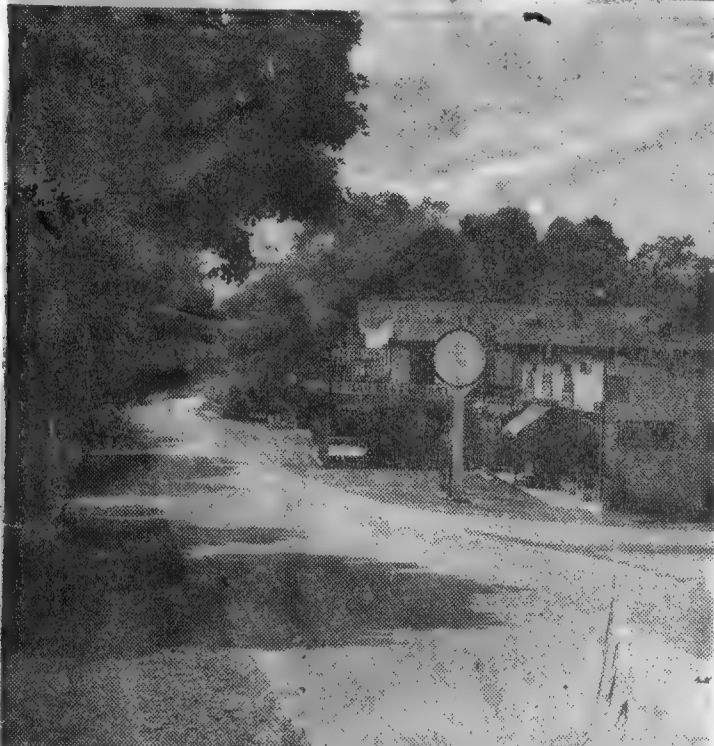
North of Milford the land that would be flooded generally is uncultivated. Below Milford and extending to Bushkill, are summer colonies and rich farm lands, all of which would be inundated. It is along this strip and in Bushkill as well as a corresponding area on the Jersey side of the river that greatest opposition to the reservoir has been advanced.

While property owners on both sides of the river have skeleton organizations that are prepared to carry a strong fight against the condemnation of their land if the project is approved, currently they have adopted a plan of watchful waiting.

Many reflected the attitude evidenced by the indifference of Philadelphians to the public studies and are inclined to doubt that the project will ever get beyond the stage of talk. Should it, however, they indicated their readiness, particularly in New Jersey, to contest agreement of that State to any use of the Delaware River water beyond the limits of the current compacts.

J. Russell Eshback, prothonotary of Pike county, who has extensive farm holdings along the Delaware between Dingman's Ferry and Bushkill, also is skeptical the Delaware River Project will go through. He, at the same time, is prepared to lead the fight of the landowners against it in the courts if that move is necessary.

(Continued Tomorrow)



Under plans of consulting engineers of the Philadelphia Water Commission a 30-mile reservoir extending from Bushkill, Pa., to the Tri-State boundary point of Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey would be created to provide the city with a new water supply. The river level would be materially raised to create



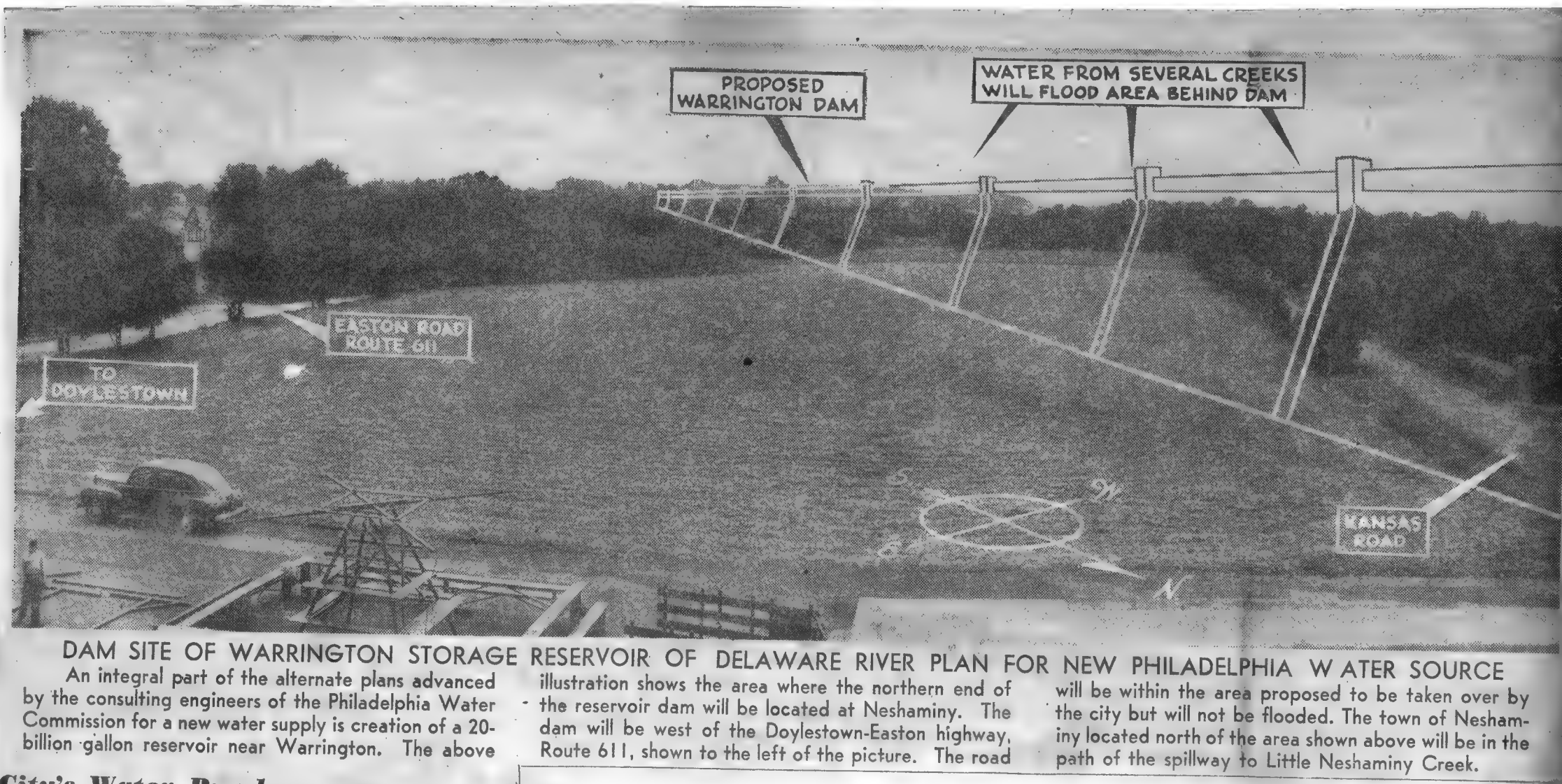
a lake a half-mile-wide between the slopes of the Pocono Range in Pennsylvania and the Kittatinny Range in New Jersey. The above pictures the reservoir which would be flooded. The upper left shows a section of Bushkill which would be inundated. To the right is a view of the Delaware Valley that will contain the

backed-up waters south of the New York State line. On the lower left is a section of Dingman's Ferry and the entrance to the bridge over the river to New Jersey. At the lower right is shown the Delaware River at the Tri-State Rock where it is joined on the right by the Neversink River.



TOWNS AND VALLEY ALONG THE DELAWARE RIVER THAT WILL BE FLOODED BY PROPOSED WALLPACK BEND RESERVOIR





**DAM SITE OF WARRINGTON STORAGE RESERVOIR OF DELAWARE RIVER PLAN FOR NEW PHILADELPHIA WATER SOURCE**  
An integral part of the alternate plans advanced by the consulting engineers of the Philadelphia Water Commission for a new water supply is creation of a 20-billion-gallon reservoir near Warrington. The above illustration shows the area where the northern end of the reservoir dam will be located at Neshaminy. The dam will be west of the Doylestown-Easton highway, Route 611, shown to the left of the picture. The road will be within the area proposed to be taken over by the city but will not be flooded. The town of Neshaminy located north of the area shown above will be in the path of the spillway to Little Neshaminy Creek.

### City's Water Puzzle

## Warrington District To Fight Reservoir

Third of a Series

By Richard J. O'Keefe

The alternate plans indorsed by the Water Commission consulting engineers for bringing Upper Delaware River water to Philadelphia provide for a 20 billion gallon storage reservoir near Warrington, 15 miles north of Philadelphia.

This phase of the program has aroused the bitter opposition of hundreds of residents and landowners whose properties would be taken for the reservoir. They, too, have expressed themselves prepared to carry to the highest courts their fight against any effort by Philadelphia to take their holdings.

In order to create the reservoir it would be necessary for the city to acquire 7550 acres of land of which 5260 acres would be in Montgomery county and 2290 in Bucks county. Opponents to the plan in the area declare that more than 1000 properties would be inundated by the reservoir or taken to provide a bordering protective strip.

#### AGRICULTURAL SECTION

The land that would be acquired is now generally devoted to farming, pasture and woodland usage. Located in it are a number of moderate residences and several estates, as well as a portion of the borough of Neshaminy. Many of the families have lived in the section for generations.

As in the case in the area of the Wallpack Bend Reservoir relocation of portions of well-travelled highways would be necessary by construction of the Warrington Storage Reservoir.

#### DAM NEAR EASTON PIKE

The dam creating the reservoir would be constructed just west of Route 611 leading through Doylestown to Easton. It would extend from the northern edge of the U. S. Naval Air Station to Neshaminy, where a spillway into Little Neshaminy Creek would be constructed.

George T. Tettemer, real estate assessor of Warrington township, said the reservoir land represents about one-third of the total assessments of the township.

#### WOULD DOOM NESHAMINY

Location of the site within the township in addition to dispossessing residents would mean wiping out two public schools, a parochial school, three churches and the village of Neshaminy.

Charles L. Murray, tax collector of Bucks County, declared the reservoir would mean a loss of approximately \$13,000 in taxes and compel upping the taxes for sections not physically affected by the reservoir.

#### DATE BACK TO REVOLUTION

Edward T. Hancock, a member of the County Board of Commissioners, pointed out that many of the buildings that would be destroyed go back to the Revolutionary period and have been the homes for generations of the same families. He further opposed the site because its selection would force relocation of a number of county roads.

The primary roads that would have to be relocated, in addition to a half-dozen well-kept secondary roads, are Route 152 leading to Chalfont, Route 463 connecting Horsham and Montgomeryville and Route 63 leading to Lansdale. While the Easton road passes over the eastern area of the reservoir land, it would not be necessary to relocate it, since the dam would be to the west.

#### UNIFIED IN OPPOSITION

Residents in the area of the Warrington Reservoir, unlike those in the area of the 30-mile Wallpack Bend Reservoir in the Upper Delaware, are unified in their opposition.

North of Bushkill, opposite which the Wallpack Bend dam would be built on both sides of the river, there is no unanimity of thought about the proposal.

J. Russel Eshback, prothonotary of Pike's county, heads the opposition on the Pennsylvania side and Frank J. McBride, of Wallpack Center, north of the dam site, is leader of the New Jersey opposition.

#### SOME LITTLE CONCERNED

But on both sides of the river, there were found property owners who seemed little concerned although their holdings would be completely inundated.

William J. Schoonover, owner of the Bushkill Restaurant, located in the center of the town which would be almost entirely flooded, was agreeable to construction of the reservoir if it would be open for recreational purposes. The commission engineers guarantee continuance of recreational activities on the reservoir if it is built.

#### NO DIFFERENCE TO HIM

Jeremiah Rosencrans, who for years conducted the only ferry between Bushkill and the Jersey shore until the Army cut his ferry cable, said it made no difference to him, although his farm property, located just north of the proposed dam site, would be entirely flooded.

Rev. Irvin L. Bateman, of Irvington, N. J., director of the Tri-State Bible Conference, located southeast of Port Jervis, favored the proposal on condition that recreational use of the river would be permitted.

(Continued Tomorrow)

## LEGAL TANGLE BARS REPAIR OF WATER METERS

City Gets Jammed Up in Bids for Replacement Parts

By EDWARD STONE

Gathering dust in the city's repair shop at 29th and Cambria sts. is a huge collection of broken water meters.

They come mostly from homes. A few big ones come from industrial and commercial establishments. All were brought in for repairs. One official says there are 5000, another 7000, a third 9000.

Whatever their number, they have been lying around for many months, in some cases as long as two years. The reason? Inability to get repair parts.

#### Legal Knot

No, it's not the war's aftermath. It's just a little legal knot into which the city managed to get itself tied.

Philadelphia's houses and other buildings use a score of different makes of water meters. When they go bad, the Water Bureau takes them out for repairs. The repair and replacement parts are bought by the Department of Supplies and Purchases.

In most cases, those parts can be made by various manufacturers. Years ago, the department used to advertise for bids and buy the parts from the lowest responsible bidder, in line with the city's custom.

#### Bumped Away With Contracts

But the enterprising Phoenix Meter Corp., New York, began to bump away with many of the department's contracts. Too many, its rivals complained to Martin J. McLaughlin, then chief of the Water Bureau.

So McLaughlin recommended to Director of Supplies and Purchases Charles H. Grakelow that parts be bought only from the firms manufacturing the particular meters for which the parts were intended.

Grakelow agreed. Beginning around the end of 1943, invitations for bids gave notice that only the manufacturer of the specific meter would be considered.

Nevertheless, Phoenix still put in bids. They were rejected. Phoenix went to court, through its local representative, John B. McHugh, Jr.

#### Company Is Winner

The city fought, but McHugh won out. In May, 1944, Judge Gerald F. Flood, of Common Pleas Court No. 6, forbade "any condition restricting bids to the manufacturer's of water meters for the replacement parts of their respective meters."

The Supplies Department refused to admit it was licked. It tried a different stunt. It circulated invitations for bids reading like this: "Repair parts of XYZ meters, which parts shall be manufactured for said meters by the XYZ Meter Company."

That, the City Solicitor's office told Grakelow, would spike Judge Flood's decision. Nothing to stop anybody under the sun from buying XYZ parts from the XYZ company and selling them to the city, was there? Wasn't that the "free and untrammelled bidding" required by law?

#### Questions Raised

But Robert C. White, then City

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# Wallpack Bend Project Reported Sent To Mayor as Best of Seven Water Plans

## Lehigh Offers New Supply From Poconos

Fourth of a Series

By Richard J. O'Keefe

Mountain water from the sparsely settled wooded gorges of the Pocono Plateau is the new supply offered Philadelphia in the proposal of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co.

The water would be collected in four large reservoirs, on the Lehigh River, and three tributary creeks of the river. It would then be taken by tunnel, for nearly its entire length by gravity, to a reserve reservoir on Jericho Creek, seven miles east of Doylestown.

When first proposed by the company, the cost of the project was estimated by engineers at \$142,000,000. Water Commission engineers protested this figure was too low, at the same time asserting the source would not provide sufficient water for the future needs of the city.

### PROGRAM REVISED

The company then revised its program to enlarge the original plan, raising the estimated cost of the project to \$195,000,000. The Water Commission engineers in opposing the original suggestion of the company declared the source would fall short by 169 million gallons daily of the city's future needs and that the cost should have been estimated at \$240,000,000.

The Lehigh engineers said their revised plan which added a fourth reservoir to the original three in the upper Lehigh basin would provide 445 million gallons daily, sufficient for the city's needs for 75 years.

### MOST OF LAND

Lehigh project calls for the location of three reservoirs are on land almost entirely by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co. The company proposes to the city 12,000 acres of its for the reservoir sites and its to the sole use of the Lehigh. The land on which the fourth reservoir on the upper Lehigh would be located is not owned by the company.

Four impounding dams would be located on Bear Creek, at a location 10 miles northeast of White Haven; on the Lehigh, two miles southeast; on Mud Run Creek, seven and a half miles south of the Lehigh Reservoir, and on Pohopoco Creek, near Lehigh, about 10 miles south of the Mud Run Reservoirs.

### CALLS FOR GRADE TUNNELS

From Pohopoco, the water would be carried by grade tunnels, less costly than the Delaware River plan type of pressure tunnels, for a distance of 60 miles to the Jericho reservoir. Some sections of the tunnel to Jericho would, however, be of the pressure type to carry the water through unfavorable terrain.

Proponents of the Lehigh plan, which during the public hearings of the Philadelphia Water Commission and of City Council was subjected to strongly critical attacks by the Water Commission's consulting engineers, contend fewer individuals or property owners would be disturbed than would be the case by adoption of the Delaware River plan.

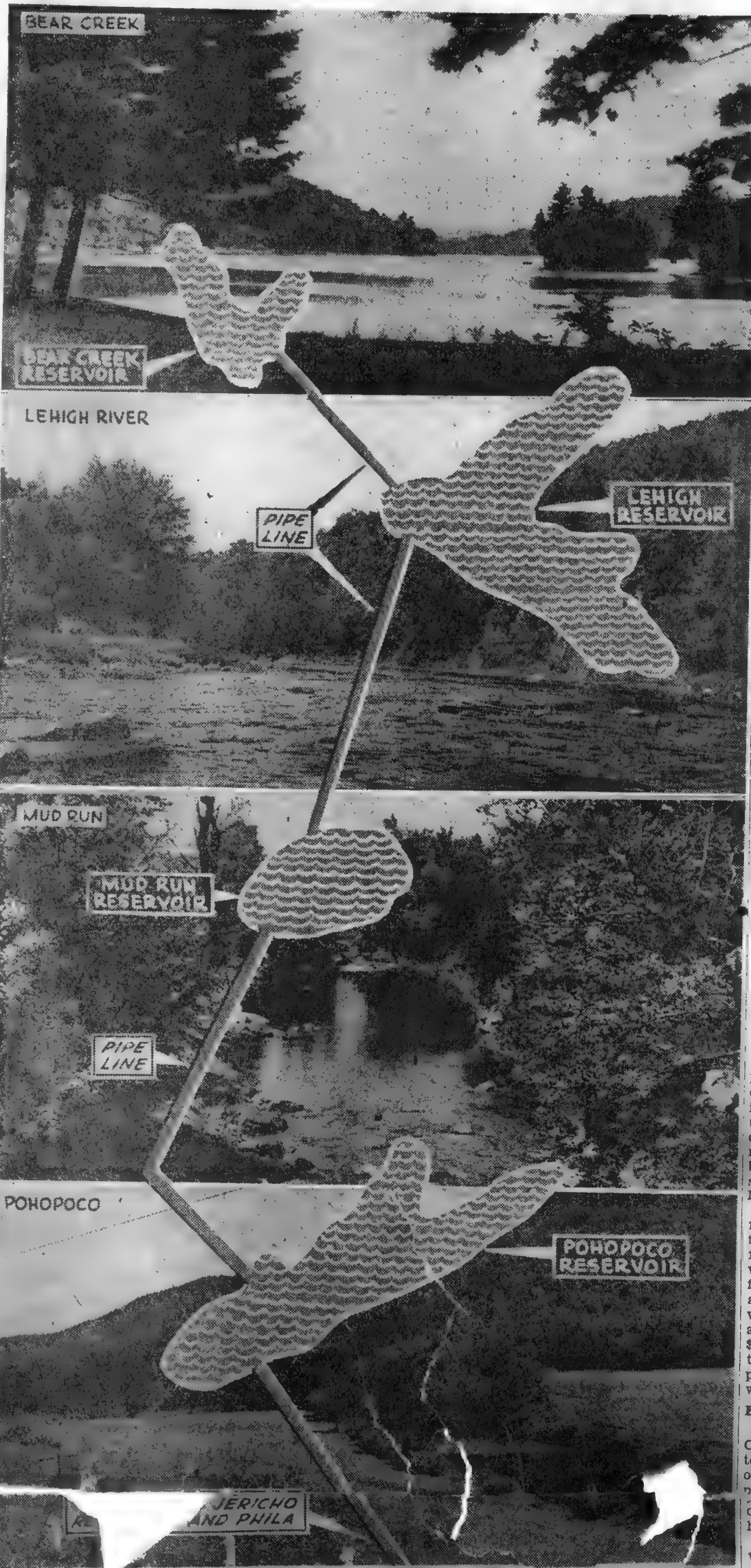
### HEAVILY POPULATED

Areas which are to be located in the three northernmost reservoirs, Bear Creek, Lehigh and Mud Run, are not thickly inhabited. There are no villages of material size and the sites are largely covered with forest. The population on the Pohopoco site is slightly greater and considerably larger portion of the land is under cultivation.

On the site of the Bear Creek reservoir is located the village of Bear Creek, an attractive summer colony which includes a number of exclusive houses. It would be necessary to relocate one mile of the Easton-Wilkes-Barre highway which runs through the village and about five miles of a State highway which parallels Bear Creek.

The site of the Mud Run reservoir is partly owned by the Federal Government and operated as a game preserve. There is practically no habitation or cultivation in the area to be submerged. Although construction would not involve any important highways or communities, relocation of several miles of a secondary road would be necessary.

(Concluded Tomorrow)



### FOUR RESERVOIRS OF LEHIGH RIVER PLAN

Mountain water of the Pocono Plateau, north of Mauch Chunk, would be collected in four reservoirs on the Upper Lehigh River under a proposal of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co. for a new Philadelphia water supply. The above illustration presents views in the vicinity of the sites of the four reservoirs. Superimposed is the plan for the collecting lakes, the water in each of which would be transferred by pipe line from the Bear Creek reservoir through the Lehigh and Mud Run reservoirs to the Pohopoco reservoir, from which it would be dropped by tunnel to a fifth storage lake on Jericho Creek, east of Doylestown.

## Proposal Will Go To Council

A recommendation by the Board of Consulting Engineers, favoring the Delaware River-Wallpack Bend project as a new source of drinking water for the city, has been passed on unofficially to Mayor Samuel by the Mayor's Water Commission as the most promising of the seven projects under consideration, it was indicated yesterday.

The Water Commission met, for more than two hours yesterday afternoon, with 13 of its 19 members present, and approved the final draft of its report on a future source of water for Philadelphia. At the conclusion of the meeting, however, no details of its recommendations were forthcoming.

### SEVERAL WEEKS DELAY

Samuel H. Rosenberg, secretary to the Mayor and to the Commission, said it would probably be several weeks before the Commission's report was ready for submission to the Mayor. The latter, in turn, will send its recommendations to City Council for action.

Other City Hall sources yesterday, however, predicted that in view of the prohibitive cost of the upland water project, City Council might content itself for the present with rehabilitation of the city's present water system.

### 500 MILLION GALLONS DAILY

The Board of Consulting Engineers, which made a study of seven projects involving various areas in the Poconos and the Delaware River watershed, recently recommended the Delaware River-Wallpack Bend project, which would cost \$284,538,000 to put into operation and would provide Philadelphia with 500,000,000 gallons of fresh drinking water daily.

The Board also estimated it would cost \$62,568,000 to improve the city's present water system—a task which must be completed regardless of whether an uplands source is chosen. The board's estimate not include \$18,000,000 already authorized by the voters for the same purpose in 1940.

### PUBLIC HEARINGS HELD

Council's Public Works Committee, headed by Councilman Phineas T. Green, held a series of public hearings recently at which all phases of the water supply problem were discussed. Yesterday, Green indicated no meeting of his committee would be held before the Water Commission's report is submitted to the Mayor, nor immediately thereafter.

From this, observers drew the inference that Council, upon getting the Commission's recommendations, from the Mayor, might go ahead with its own program. Council a few months ago ordered full speed ahead in revamping the present water system, and at that time authorized the expenditure of about \$10,500,000 in funds remaining from the original \$18,000,000 loan approved by the voters, to finance the work.

### PERKIOMEN STUDIED

A subcommittee of the Water Commission, it also was learned yesterday, is studying the practicability of using Perkiomen as a supplementary source in the Delaware River.

Four members of the Commission who attended yesterday's meeting were reported in favor of this proposal. The subcommittee, which might muster a majority if the six commission members absent yesterday vote with it, will meet in two weeks to make its recommendation.

The commission's report as drawn up yesterday, it was understood, will say that if an upland source is decided upon, the most promising one is that at Wallpack Bend. But it was understood that the report recommended strongly that the city proceed to rehabilitate the present water system, and use ozone and activated carbon to correct the taste and smell of the present supply.

### TWO CONTRACTS SIGNED

In line with the latter program, the city yesterday signed two contracts for cleaning and relining part of the present storage and distribution system so as to lessen the taste and odor of its drinking water.

One, calling for an expenditure of \$215,000, calls for cleaning and lining with cement approximately 35,000 linear feet of 48-inch steel and cast iron pipe lines in Hunting Park ave., Roosevelt boulevard, and adjoining streets; the other, for \$385,000, involves removing 60 years of accumulated silt from the Roxborough Reservoir, which hasn't been cleaned since it was built.

Philadelphia Water Department  
Historical Collection  
2004.019.0020A



## City Water Puzzle

# Storage Lake Favored Near Doylestown

Jericho Creek Site Favored

Last of a Series

By Richard J. O'Keefe

The Upper Lehigh Project for a new Philadelphia water supply discards the idea of a storage reservoir in the rich farmland area near Warrington in favor of a storage lake in the more populated area on Jericho Creek, about seven miles south-east of Doylestown.

A natural bowl, engineers of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, sponsors of the plan, say the proposed Jericho Reservoir can hold a reserve of 37½ billion gallons of water, sufficient for a six-month supply for the city.

### 30 PROPERTY HOLDERS

On the site of the reservoir there are about 30 property holders. The area of the reservoir would cover 4.3 square miles. Some of the land is cultivated and the balance is timbered.

The reservoir would be created by the construction of two dams across Jericho Creek, one two miles south-west of Brownsburg and the other about one mile east of Pineville.

The maximum height of the main dam, that near Brownsburg, would be 210 feet and that of the dam near Pineville 125 feet. The bowl-like conformation of the land on the site, engineers say, would enable the storage of almost three times the amount of water that could be stored in a proposed saucer-like reservoir suggested by the Water Commission engineers.

The right of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company to the exclusive use of the water of the Lehigh River was contested during the public hearings.

### FIRST GOT RIGHT IN 1822

The Company contends that right was given it by the State Legislature in 1822 and subsequent court proceedings, it holds, cemented its ownership to the river water.

As an adjunct to the Upper Lehigh project, company engineers suggested an additional water supply of 165,000,000 gallons daily could be provided by creating a reservoir on McMichael's Creek near Stroudsburg and using the water of that stream with that of Pocono and Broadhead Creeks.

### NO ESTIMATE OF COST

No estimate of cost to construct McMichael's Reservoir was submitted since the engineers do not believe it will be necessary to draw that supply. The area of McMichael's Creek is heavily populated, with a number of industries and rich farms adding to the cost potential of the site.

A water plan that refuses both the Upper Delaware and the Upper Lehigh as sources of the city's supply has been advanced by the Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Trade of Philadelphia.

### COST PUT AT \$116,168,000

A special committee of the organization under the chairmanship of Dr. A. V. Griffith proposes to continue using the Delaware River by moving upstream to a point north of where Trenton sewage enters the river the intake that is now in operation at Torresdale. The cost of this improvement is estimated at \$116,168,000.

The project contemplates the ultimate discontinuance of the Schuylkill as a source for Philadelphia water, elimination of odors and tastes, increased filtering capacity and complete metering of water uses.

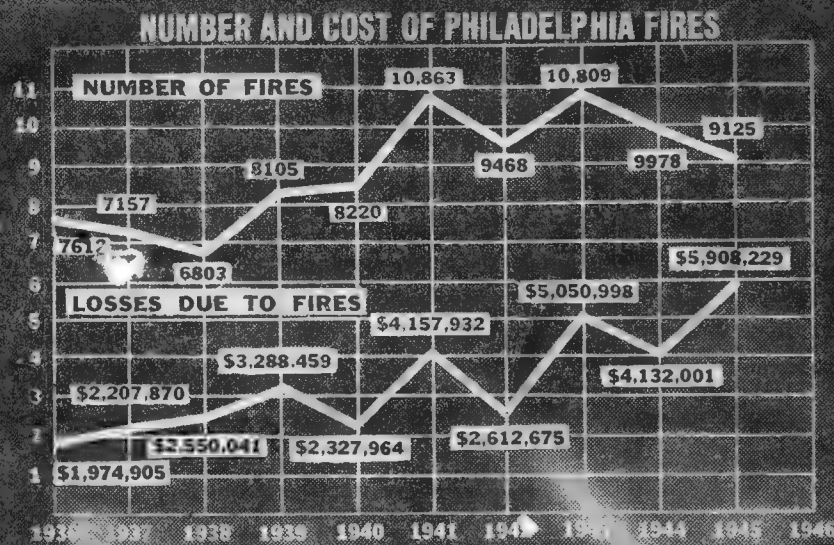


CHART BY INQUIRER STAFF  
DATA OBTAINED FROM BOX 1776 ASSOCIATION

## Water Meter Ownership

IT is by this time quite obvious that Philadelphia got off on the wrong foot in requiring property owners to buy their own water meters.

Other kinds of public utility meters rarely belong to the property owners or consumers. An electric company that finds a meter operating poorly takes out the old one and puts in another, and that is the end of it. When the city takes out a privately owned water meter, it must return that identical meter to the property after the repairs are made.

Philadelphians have bought a large variety of meters. That multiplies the difficulty of acquiring and stocking the parts needed for repairs.

About half the city's water services are metered, and universal metering is growing increasingly urgent both as a fair method of distributing costs and as a conservation measure. But all proposals to meter the remaining services have to stop for an argument about who will own the meters.

There are objections to city purchase, when half the owners have paid for their own. But there are also objections to going any deeper into the mess of private ownership of meters.

Before the thing is done with, the city may find it desirable to buy the meters now privately owned. Greater simplicity and uniformity of administration might go far toward meeting the cost.

## Do You Drink Sewage?

A BULLETIN reader undertakes in a letter to state the "real question" in the water problem. He states it as follows: Are we satisfied to drink diluted, filtered, chlorinated sewage?

It may sound like a fair question, but it isn't, because it suggests that the qualities of sewage are present when the water comes from the household's faucet.

Competent authorities have told Philadelphia that there is no source of supply available which would not require some treatment to remove contamination. But engineering science can put water through the same processes of reclamation that nature continually uses, and can do it not only just as efficiently, but much more quickly.

Some water is hard to reclaim; some easy. Philadelphia's water can be reclaimed at a cost lower than tapping mountain sources, and river clean-up measures promise even easier reclamation.

The test of water is not whether it has been contaminated at some time in the past, for there is probably no water in the world which has not been polluted at one time or another, but in the typhoid rate of those who consume it. Philadelphia's rate of practically zero is a telling argument for defenders of the present water sources.

of the Torresdale Intake to Trenton to eliminate heavy pollution south of that city.

### OTHER PROPOSALS LISTED

The program of the organization calls for improvements and changes within the city of existing water facilities and using a cost figure of \$315,791,000 for the Wallpack Dam project for the Delaware River claims a saving of nearly \$200,000,000.

Other proposals for replacing or augmenting the city's present water supply are variations of the Delaware River Project favored by the Water Commission engineers, the Upper Lehigh Project and the plan of the Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Trade of Philadelphia.

### DIFFER IN MINOR DETAILS

Some differ in only minor details as does that contemplating the use of the Upper Lehigh and the waters of Perkiomen and Tohickon Creeks with a storage reservoir on Unami Creek near Quakertown.

The Upper Delaware River Basin Tributaries Project provides for the construction of reservoirs on six tributaries of the Delaware which drain the Pocono area. They are the Lackawaxen River and the Shohola, Bushkill, Broadhead, McMichael's and Buckwha Creeks. A reservoir on Unami Creek also is proposed. Water Commission engineers estimate this as the most costly at \$380,250,000.

### VERSION OF C. OF C. PLAN

The Delaware River-Yardley Project is a version of the Chamber of Commerce plan. It, however, contemplates the construction of four storage reservoirs on the Perkiomen Creek watershed and one on Tohickon Creek.

Recently, H. S. Spalinski, of Trenton, president of Electric Power Company of New Jersey, Inc., advanced a plan by which his company would undertake to build a series of dams in the Delaware River south of Bushkill and sell Philadelphia whatever water it needed.

### HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER

The Spalinski proposal also contemplates production of hydro-electric power which it would sell.

He explained his company proposes to finance the project "through the sale of bonds and preferred stock or other securities."

In the event the city adopts his program which calls for a 135 billion gallon reservoir, he said he would give Philadelphia an option to buy the water system from the company. (The End)

## Water Comes First

PHILADELPHIA today has, in the offering a number of major civic improvements of wide variety. They include removal of the Chinese wall, extension of the transit service, furnishing express service in the subway, solving the parking problem and improving the water supply.

A Bulletin poll printed today shows that in the minds of the city's residents improvement of the water supply stands so far ahead of the rest that they are hardly in the running.

When four out of five people single out one undertaking in preference to all others, the priority is no accident.

Fortunately, water supply improvement is not only high on the list of projects, but actually under way. Coupled with the State's work in cleaning up the Schuylkill and the city's construction of sewage disposal facilities, the water program authorized before the war offers real hope.

But anybody who expects to wake up some morning soon to find the Schuylkill cocktail is no longer part of the daily diet is doomed to disappointment. Like all major undertakings, this one will take a long time.

# Let People Decide on Water Sources

The people of Philadelphia should decide for themselves, by ballot, where this city is to obtain its supply of drinking water—whether from the present polluted sources or from upland streams.

The final report of the Mayor's Water Commission does little more than confront Philadelphia with the same old choice: keep what we have and try to improve it, or spend several hundred millions of dollars to obtain a new and much cleaner supply.

It is up to the people to act on that choice. By giving their judgment at the polls they will be taking the water problem for the first time out of the realm of surveys, reports and conflicting recommendations in which it has been enmeshed for years.

They will be telling the city government exactly how they want water supply handled, removing the doubts and confusion on this score that have delayed improvements over the years.

They will be making it impossible for shyster politicians now out of office, and their shyster allies, to make the subject of better water for Philadelphia a political football.

There is no difference of opinion concerning the recommendation of the Water Commission for immediate rehabilitation of the filtration and distribution systems.

It is what would come after this preliminary improvement that is most vital to Philadelphians. The Commission, as the next step, urges a long-range program that it states would bring the present system "to the peak of efficiency needed to supply pure, palatable water." The cost would be \$63,000,000, or \$87,568,000 should the Schuylkill River be abandoned as a source and dependence placed entirely on the Delaware.

If, thereafter, the city desires an upland source, it is the Commission's opinion that the best location would be the upper Delaware River near Wallpack Bend. It concedes the water from there would be a great improvement over the present product and it places the cost at \$284,588,000.

But this plan is hedged about with difficulties.

An agreement with New York and New Jersey for the diversion of the water would be needed and Congress and the Supreme Court might have to pass on the matter, with consequent delays. More serious are the legal obstacles to condemning land required in the two other States.

The Commission says pointedly that if for legal reasons the Wallpack Bend project proves impractical, and the city still desires an upland source, "it will be necessary to select a source within this Commonwealth."

The Commission is not very helpful at this point. What source within Pennsylvania would be most suitable? It dismisses as unsatisfactory the so-called Lehigh plan, insisting that the sponsors' cost estimate of \$142,000,000 is too low.

It does state, however—in a terse footnote—that the upper Lehigh, Bear Creek and Mud Run as sources, supplemented by waters from the upper Perkiomen, will furnish 500 million gallons per day of acceptable water at a cost of \$377,240,000.

Is this to be considered the best available source within Pennsylvania? It is a pity the Commission has not devoted more attention to this site, instead of contenting itself with a footnote.

The people should be given the opportunity to express their wishes in the matter in a referendum placing the issue before them in unambiguous terms. If they are willing to continue taking their drinking water from the Delaware River docks, they should make that decision clear. If they want the city to obtain water from upland streams, they should vote for such a step.

If the majority favor new sources, the city government should stop trying to patch up the existing system at cost of many millions and concentrate upon a new source that would give us the best possible water at the lowest possible price.

But let the people determine what should be done. They drink the water and pay the bills for it. They should decide what kind of water they will have.

## WALLPACK BEND TIE SOUGHT

Mayor Asks Right to Get City Priority on Area

Mayor Samuel asked City Council yesterday for authorization to protect the city's right to the Wallpack Bend area as a future source of water supply for Philadelphia.

Pre-emption, the Mayor said in a resolution to Council, will give the city a priority in case the ultimate decision of Council is to use the Wallpack Bend.

## \$62,000 for Allentown

Washington, March 25—(AP)—The Federal Works Agency announced today it had advanced \$62,000 to Allentown, Pa., to finance plans for addition to its water system, estimated to cost \$1,980,000.



# Almost 25,000 Water Meters in City are Awaiting Repairs

By JOHN G. MCCOY, JR.  
Of The Bulletin Staff

A complete revision of the city's system of water meter installation and service was urged yesterday by officials of several municipal bureaus.

Their action stemmed from complaints of thousands of property owners whose water meters are either out of order or have been removed for repair and not returned. Nearly 25,000 meters have been awaiting repair, some for as long as four years, it was reported.

One of the proposed changes would end the procedure of having property owners buy their own meters from a list of city approved types, and then paying for any future repairs. Instead, the city would buy a supply of meters, install them when requested, and pass the cost on to the user either through an initial fee or along with the regular quarterly water bills.

Service Charge Proposed  
It was also suggested that a small service charge be added to the regular water bills to defray the cost of repairs instead of having the consumer pay the entire cost when the repairs are made by the city.

The chief advantage of having the city supply the meters, it was indicated, would be in eliminating the time spent in checking an individual meter through the repair stage to make certain that it is returned to the proper owner. In addition, the city could decide upon three or four types of meters and use them instead of the 20 types now in general use.

The difficulty in obtaining replacement parts for so many types of meter was given as the chief cause for the huge backlog of repair

work at the Water Bureau's meter division, 29th and Cambria sts.

## Divided Authority Assailed

Under the present system the Bureau of Water is charged with the inspection and repair of all meters, the cost of repair being charged to the owner with his regular water bill. Reading of the meters, however, is done by employees of the tax department, who must also report any failures in the devices.

This divided authority was attacked by both W. Frank Marshall, Receiver of Taxes, and Elbert J. Taylor, Chief of the Bureau of Water.

Both agreed that the department should have full control, not only of the reading of the meters, but of their installation, inspection and repair as well. They also advocated some form of city purchase of meters.

Several years ago, in an attempt to standardize all repair parts purchased, the city specified that only the manufacturers of the meters would be permitted to bid for contracts. This move, however, was defeated when an independent dealer obtained a court injunction against any such provision.

## Court Ruling Sought

Yesterday, a spokesman for the City Solicitor's office disclosed that the court will be asked this week to clarify its earlier decision on the possibility that the city might still be able to specify that only parts manufactured by the maker would be accepted. This would permit jobbers to sell the parts to the city and yet guarantee that the items purchased would be suitable, the spokesman said.

## 72 Odorless City Water

READINESS of the Bureau of Water to install the largest ozonation plant in the country at the Belmont Reservoir registers the Water Bureau's conviction that this method of removing tastes and odors is definitely beyond the experimental stage. That disagreeable tastes and odors, which were stimulating the drive to go to the mountains for the city's water, could be removed was one of the contributions of the Bureau of Municipal Research to the water problem discussion a year ago.

It was then shown that while it would cost more to remove the tastes and odors than not to remove them, it would cost far less than to take water from a source of water a hundred miles or more from the city. Council wisely decided to have a try at treating water taken from the present nearby sources.

Last week the Bureau told the public that taste and odor control had been in effect for some time for some parts of the water supply, and that "threshold odor numbers" as high as 30 had been reduced to three. That means, substantially, that while it took the addition of twenty-nine parts of odorless water to one part of raw water to kill the odor of the water before treatment it took the addition of only two parts to kill the odor after treatment.

The new treatment may be one reason why there appears to have been less complaint recently about the water. Early results of treatment with a partial installation hold promise that the nuisance may be abated.

## Another Main Lets Go

Another of Philadelphia's troublesome water mains blew its top today. Results: a gash nearly 200 feet long down the middle of S. Broad st., a bad scare for two busloads of people; topsy-turvy sidewalks; water, water everywhere. It all happened at Snyder av.—News Page 1

## City Work Plan is Its Greatest

SUNDAY BULLETIN 2/23/47  
Buckley and Mayor Promise Speed

Director of Public Works Thomas Buckley yesterday described the municipality's program of citywide improvement projects as unquestionably the greatest ever contemplated in its history.

In a statement supplementing the 46-page brochure prepared at his request, Mayor Samuel said that a total of \$119,050,000 is available for the works program as authorized.

Assurance was given by both officials that a huge backlog of projected improvements, delayed by the war, will be expedited as speedily as possible.

The 1947 Works schedule is, according to Buckley, notable for several reasons—"its great volume, variety, cost and geographical spread."

A number of the projects already authorized are of major importance and large in scope and, therefore, the time required for completion will extend into next year. Also, uncompleted contracts carried over from 1946 have been placed at the head of the list of new work now pending.

Buckley further explained that the current-year program is "not rigid but elastic; it can be amplified to meet the demands of sudden emergencies or of other necessities as they develop, and all elements of the construction industry will have opportunity to participate in it."

Stating that the city has provided the authority, the plans, the funds, and possesses the incentive, Buckley added: "The play now passes to the construction industry, and we are in their hands. The final score will depend upon the availability of materials and the labor situation."

The report is an innovation in that it presents a factual, detailed record of the status of authorized public works projects.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

## Broad St. Torn Nearly 200 Feet by Main Break

Loaded Buses Rocked, Area Flooded, Traffic Tied Up at Snyder Av.

A water main under Broad st. south of Snyder av. broke with a roar at 7:10 A. M. today, shooting up a 25-foot geyser.

A hundred or more Navy Yard workers lined up at the southwest corner waiting for Route C buses were drenched by the tumbling water before they had time to realize what had happened.

Passengers on two heavily-loaded double-deck buses on Broad st. became panicky as the water shot up beside them and the street pushed up under the vehicles.

"Get us out!" the passengers began screaming at the drivers, who put on speed and drove out of the danger zone with the street rocking beneath them.

## Water Pours Into Subway

Pressure from the break pushed up curbing and sidewalks on both sides and opened a wide crack nearly 200 feet long in the middle of Broad st.

The block between Snyder av. and Jackson st. was closed to all traffic for more than three hours. After this time, only permitted vehicles, such as fire trucks, ambulances, and other emergency vehicles, were allowed to pass.

Water poured into the subway station but caused a delay of only two minutes for one train. Quick response to emergency calls by Bureau of Water employees, who shut off the main, prevented disruption of service.

Some water flowed into basements of homes on the west side of the street and into the South Philadelphia High School on the east side.

## Sidewalks Thrown Up

The sidewalks were lifted out of place in front of the high school and in front of Dr. David Paul, Jr., dentist, and Dr. W. J. Blackburn, physician, at Nos. 2114 and 2212, respectively, on the west side of the street.

While the street was blocked off, buses and automobiles were rerouted through 13th and 15th sts. After a brief delay, trolley routes 79 and 81 were able to operate on normal schedules. Both routes cross Broad st., on Snyder av.

A crew from the Bureau of Water began digging for the break in the middle of the street about 25 feet south of Snyder av. The bureau expected to be able to restore normal water service to the area before the end of the day.

# Rehabilitation of System Stressed in Water Report

## Plans Urged To Improve Taste, Odor

A three-point program, with emphasis on plans to improve immediately the taste and odor of the city's present drinking water, was recommended yesterday in the Water Commission's final report on a future water supply for Philadelphia.

In submitting the report to Mayor Samuel, the commission urged that steps one and two, rehabilitation of the present system, be completed first and if it is then necessary to obtain water from an upland source that the Wallpack Bend, a point in the Delaware River near Bushkill, Pa., be utilized.

## COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS

The commission proposed: Immediate overhauling of the filtration and distribution systems and installation of additional chemical treatment to eliminate taste and odors. Part of this work is already under way.

A long-range program of improvement and additions to the present water system, including the taking of a larger proportion of the water supply from the Delaware River and increased storage facilities.

## 'BEST SOURCE OF WATER'

Utilization of Wallpack Bend as "the best source of water" in the event the city decides to go to an upland source for its future supply. The estimated cost of this project is \$284,588,000.

In accepting the report, the Mayor asserted the survey "will be a chart for many years to come regardless of whether the city receives its water from an upland source or whether it shall continue to flow through our mains from the present sources after they have been improved."

## FIRST STEP IN PROGRAM

The first step of the program, involving the expenditure of about \$12,000,000, contemplates the installation of chemical treatment equipment as quickly as possible. The report explained that this must be done regardless of what source of supply was finally chosen.

Mayor Samuel, in his acceptance speech, said this phase of the work was well under way, adding that contracts totaling several millions of dollars have been awarded to install new equipment at various pumping stations.

## BIDS ARE OPENED

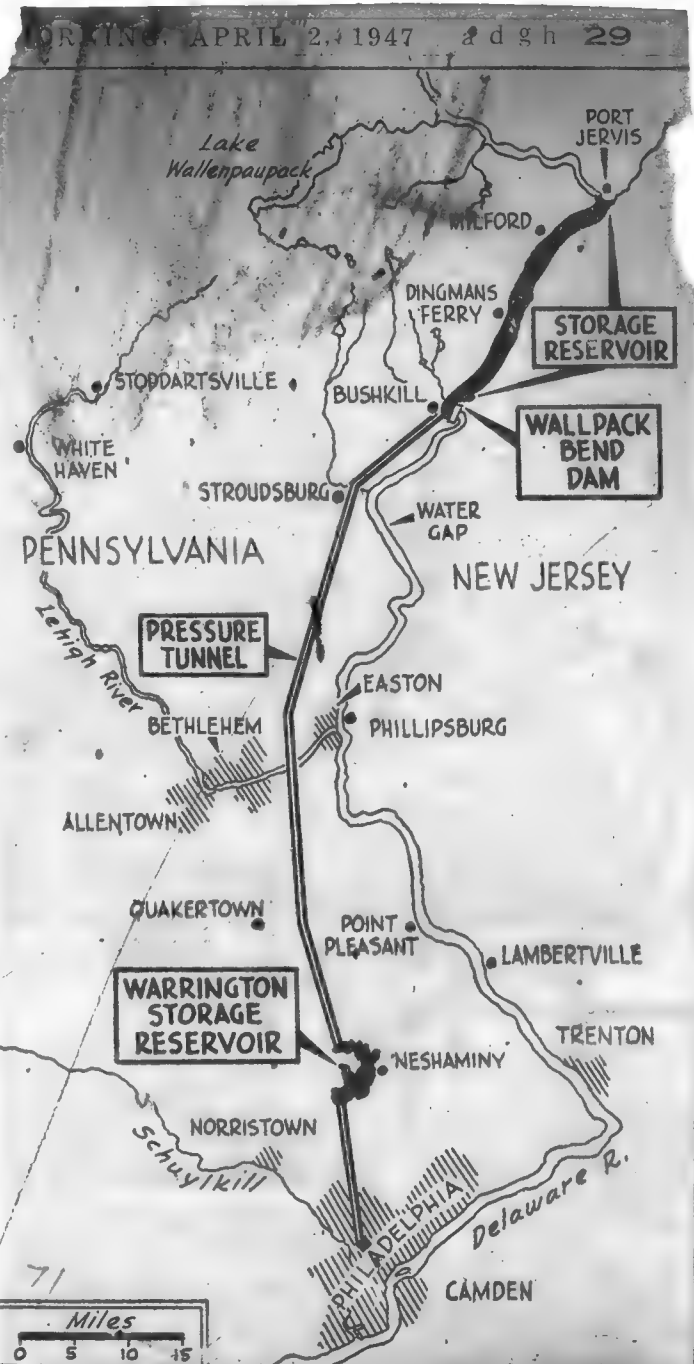
He also pointed out that bids were opened a few days ago for installing ozonation equipment at Belmont filter plant, explaining that ozonation is one of the major methods used to eliminate obnoxious odors and tastes in water.

The second step, a long-range program, would bring the present water works to the peak of efficiency to supply Philadelphians with pure, palatable water, in the opinion of the commission.

## \$62,568,000 EXPENDITURE

This part of the program would require the expenditure of \$62,568,000, which, the report explained, could be financed by increasing the average householder's water bill 13 percent.

Should the Schuylkill be abandoned as a source of water, the commission warned, the additional cost of delivering Delaware River water to an Torresdale or Belmont and Queen Lane filter plants would increase the cost \$25,000,000, necessitating a 23 percent increase in water rents instead of 13 percent.



## PROPOSED WATER SUPPLY FOR CITY

The chart above shows in detail how the Wallpack Bend project would bring hundreds of millions of gallons of pure water daily to this city from the upper reaches of the Delaware River. Two huge reservoirs and an 8.1-mile-long pressure tunnel are features of the project.

## Better Water Leads Citizens' Demands

By PAUL TRESCOTT  
Of The Bulletin Staff

When it comes to civic improvements, Philadelphians are mostly of one mind. The water supply ought to be improved first.

Other major city projects run a poor second in the minds of the rank and file citizens.

All other civic undertakings got the interest of only about one person in five when interviewed for Bulletin Poll made this inquiry:

Which of these public improvements do you think should rank first—remove Chinese Wall? extend transit service? furnish express service in subway? improve water supply? provide off-street parking facilities in downtown? any other?

Eighty-one per cent picked the water supply.

Here was the rating of the others: Downtown parking, seven per cent; extend transit service, six per cent; furnish express service in subway, four per cent; remove Chinese Wall, three per cent; others, one per cent; no answer, three per cent. The total is more than 100 because a few people named more than one project as their first choice.

In almost every question asked concerning civic affairs, the water issue rates high. Previously, when residents were asked what the Legislature could do to help the city most, water was in first place.

The city now has a major program under way in improving water supply, and this, coupled with the State's undertaking to clean up the Schuylkill through and above the city, promises results within a year or two. In addition, the construction of sewage treatment works by the city promises to improve conditions in both the Schuylkill and the Delaware.

## INQUIRY 5-26-47 Better Water on the Way

It is cheering news for Philadelphians that the city is about to obtain bids for the largest plant for treatment of water by "ozonation" in the United States. It will be even better when the plant is finished and its job of getting rid of bad taste and smells from drinking water begins to be noted at the faucets. Plans for the new ozonation station, to be located at the Belmont Reservoir, have been completed in the office of Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Bureau of Water. When it is finished the plant will be capable of treating 86,000,000 gallons of water a day.

It will do so by sending ozone bubbling through water in huge tanks to attack animal or vegetable impurities so that they can be more completely eliminated during subsequent passage through the big filter beds at Belmont. Mr. Taylor says the new process also will make the present methods of high chlorination unnecessary.

Back of this project and others in preparation is a \$10,000,000 program for improvement of the city's water system, in which taste and odor control are important factors.

Eventually, it's probable, Philadelphia must seek pure water sources at a distance from the city, but such a large-scale plan may take years to develop. The people of this community should not be expected to wait a decade or more to get better water.

Material and labor shortages, and formerly the depression, prevented an earlier attack on the "taste and smell" aspect of the city's water problem. Now that it is about to get underway it is hoped that the ozonation plant will be finished and put to use in the shortest time possible—and that chlorine works will become a thing of the past.





### EVEN POWER DREDGES MAKE LITTLE IMPRESSION ON MOUNTAINS OF SILT LINING THE SCHUYLKILL

Thousands of tons of mine waste still befoul the banks of the Schuylkill, despite efforts of shovels and dredges to restore the natural beauty of the stream. One expert has suggested that the city could

burn the silt, which he indicated was more than 50 per cent coal, as a cheap source of power. City officials doubt the proposal's value. At left, above, a power dredge bites into high-piled silt on West River Drive

below Columbia ave. bridge. Center picture shows towering banks of bluish, oily silt defacing the stream. At right, above, a worker shows how much the collected silt resembles coal.

## City Urged To Burn Silt From River

Thousands of tons of mine waste pouring down the Schuylkill could be burned in the city's power plants, providing a cheap and handy fuel, John Phillips Badenhausen, an official of J. P. Badenhausen, Inc., Wyncote, asserted yesterday.

Instead of spending \$100 per day for a dredge to remove silt from the Schuylkill, Badenhausen asserted, the city could burn it at the Queen Lane pumping station at an estimated saving of \$288,000 a year.

#### CALLED 'GOLD MINE'

He said that nearly 10,000,000 tons of silt, capable of producing 8000 to 9000 British Thermal Units of heat per pound, now were deposited in the river. He called this deposit a "gold mine at Philadelphia's door." Badenhausen asserted that his Wyncote firm now was constructing three units capable of burning the silt's coal content, which he estimated at more than 50 percent.

#### TESTS SHOW 51 PCT.

The U. S. Army District Engineer's office said that tests conducted in May, 1944, indicated that the Schuylkill silt contained about 51 percent anthracite coal.

Badenhausen said that inventions which he had patented in January, 1945, would facilitate burning of the silt, providing the city with an economic source of electric power while clearing the river of collected deposits.

#### TERMED EXPERIMENTAL

Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Philadelphia Water Bureau, referred to the Badenhausen project as "experimental." He said some tests already had been made in the anthracite silt to extract coal from the material.

Taylor said, "The city is not going to purchase the coal content of the silt."

## State Board Gets Wallpack Water Plan

Philadelphia's formal application for permission to tap the Delaware River at Wallpack Bend, in Pike county, for a future new water supply was received yesterday at the Water and Power Resources Board in Harrisburg.

Mayor Bernard Samuel, with Councilmanic approval, signed the necessary papers on Monday and forwarded them to the State board.

Although Council has instructed the Department of Public Works to proceed with plans to improve this city's present sources of water, thus postponing indefinitely any concrete action on the Wallpack Bend project, the Mayor's action was important in that it was the first step in obtaining legal rights to the upper Delaware River source.

#### FAVORED BY COMMISSION

The Wallpack Bend project has been favored by the special Mayor's Water Commission as the exclusive source of a new supply when this city abandons its Schuylkill sources. Commission members have estimated that Wallpack could provide 500,000,000 gallons of pure water daily. The project calls for construction of a high dam at Wallpack Bend near Bushkill, Pa., and the creation of a 30-mile-long reservoir north of the dam to the New York State line at Port Jervis.

#### 7550 ACRES REEDED

From the reservoir, water for this city would be taken by an 81-mile-long pressure tunnel to a Storage reservoir near Warrington, Bucks county. Philadelphia would be to purchase 7550 acres for the reservoir in Bucks county.

In a final report of the Water Commission last April, cost of the project was estimated at \$284,588,000. Unofficial estimates since then have brought the figure to \$315,000,000.

## City's Water Pure? Yes, Says Bureau Fish Thrive In It

This being the season for the Schuylkill to become somewhat odoriferous, it is timely to consider the question of fish in the city's reservoirs.

The mere fact that there are fish in the reservoirs, says the City Water Bureau, proves that our water is pure.

Fish also are cavorting inside the city's water mains but they never—well, hardly ever get into the households because the faucets intercept them. Tadpoles, however, occasionally manage to wriggle through.

How do fish get into the reservoirs? Well, fish roe is pumped in with the river water. The purification chemicals, mostly alum and lime, don't harm the roe or the resulting fish.

Among the varieties of fish now enjoying reservoir life are carp, pickerel and perch, but no trout.

Sportsmen who go after the fish at such places as the 33d st. and Columbia av. reservoir are violating the law. The Water Bureau says they might kick dirt into the water.

JOHN M. CUMMINGS

## As It Is, Schuylkill Silt Burns Up Philadelphians

Silt in the Schuylkill River will no longer be a serious problem at the moment the process of reclamation is made commercially profitable. There is plenty of energy stored away in this waste product from the anthracite coal belt. Under forced draught it will burn. And the energy thus generated could be put to some useful purpose.

There is nothing especially new in the contention of John Phillips Badenhausen, a Wyncote engineer, that the banks of the Schuylkill are lined with tons of potential energy in the form of silt. There could, however, be something new in the system of reconversion which Mr. Badenhausen has devised. It would seem unwise, therefore, to shrug it off or belittle it as "experimental" as did Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the city's water bureau.

Nevertheless, there is in the prospective use of the silt as fuel a factor tending to justify reluctance to install costly equipment in the hope the "black gold" at the municipal doorstep would produce results warranting the outlay. The coal companies, ever on the alert to turn an honest penny, would trap the silt in the upland waters long before it had a chance to clog the river here in the heart of the city. Then, the silt problem, as far as Philadelphia is concerned, would be solved.

John S. Wise, Jr., for some years before his retirement as president of the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company, experimented with the coal-laden silt. He had no difficulty at all in solving the combustion problem, but the question of cost remained. For all we know he may still be experimenting in an effort to bring the cost down to a point that would tempt industry.

#### Uncle Dominick Says—



"A Greensburg man was fined \$1 for riding a horse while intoxicated. Loaded with white mule."

One of Mr. Wise's systems—he devised several—used the powdered coal dust just as oil is used in furnaces. It was fed to the combustion chamber under high pressure and burned with a fierce white heat.

If Mr. Badenhausen or Mr. Wise or some other engineer manages to devise a method which will combine thorough combustion with low-cost reclamation the Schuylkill will once again become the lovely stream of years ago.

Mr. Wise, as a matter of fact, can recall the Schuylkill when it was the boat racing center of the Republic. Back there in the '90's he was the coxswain of a famous Penn crew. It was not necessary, in those days, to have a dredge in constant service to keep the river channel open. And it was possible to skim over the clear water without fear of being trapped on a silt bar.

In those days the river was a recreational center. In their spare hours of a summer's day thousands of Philadelphians used the Schuylkill for boating, swimming and fishing. The river was famed for the quality of its catfish. Maybe you remember the song in praise of the Wabash River in Indiana. A parody included the couplet:

"I'd rather be a catfish in the Schuylkill,  
Than a goldfish in the Wabash far away."

They still get catfish in the Schuylkill, but it's our information they're caught for their high fuel content rather than for food. Used either way, of course, you get energy.

An inveterate Schuylkill fisherman told us the other day a five-pound catfish will have as much as a pound and a half of high-grade silt in its system. He said that when anthracite was hard to get during war-time he kept his house warm by catching catfish in the river.

Under ordinary conditions this would be a costly and a time-wasting method of heating a home. That's always been the reason advanced for failure to take advantage of the fuel content of the stream—too costly. They say it's cheaper to buy the finely ground grades direct from the coal companies.

On the Susquehanna at Harrisburg coal "fishing" is a sizable industry. Scores of boats with steam-propelled conveyor lines scrape the bottom of the stream, or cut away deposits of coal silt along the banks and sell it to Harrisburg industries.

It's the same kind of silt we have here in Philadelphia. In this town, however, we'd rather keep piling the stuff along the banks of the stream. Then when we get a heavy rain it all washes back into the river and we do the same old job over and over again.



PHILADELPHIA, SUNDAY MORNING, MAY 4, 1947

## WATER BUREAU HAS ITS OWN DETECTIVE FORCE TO CHECK WASTE



Kunder on the trail of a water main leak. He's in the Bureau of Water's leakage and waste survey. Instrument he's using is called a geophone



William G. Warrington employs an M-scope to plot the course of an unrecorded water pipe. Its operation is similar to that of a mine detector used during the war



Trouble-shooter Kunder listens to the wild waves. With an aquaphone, he can tell whether water pressure is all it should be, also whether water meter is registering

### Water Meter Ownership

IT now appears that when Philadelphia began metering water it made a major blunder in requiring property-owners to install meters which would forever after be their own.

One consequence has been a wide variety in the types of meters in use, with grave complications in procuring and stocking parts for repair.

Just now thousands of meters are out of service because the purchase parts has been in a legal snarl. That snarl might be the same if the city owned the meters; but then a broken meter would not necessarily mean, as it now does, that a service could be without a meter.

When a gas or electric meter goes bad in Philadelphia, it is simply replaced by another meter. But when a water meter is removed for repair, that meter and no other must be returned. Often there are long delays.

The person who pays for utility pays for the meter in one way or another, even when the utility owns the meter. Too much emphasis seems to have been placed on the property owner's right to be served by the meter he bought and by no other.

Since about half the city's water services are still unmetered, there is still time for a change of policy on meter ownership.

JULY 16, 1947

## City Can be Mosquito Free at Small Cost or Trouble

State Director of Plant Industry Tells How New War Insecticides Will Get Rid of Pests in a Hurry

By a Bulletin Staff Correspondent

Harrisburg, May 3.—Philadelphia can rid itself of flies and mosquitoes by going to a little trouble and expense, state officials said today.

The answer to the problem, they declared, is wholesale use of the harmless-to-humans but high powered insecticides developed during World War II.

Within a few years, scores of communities will spray DDT in early summer and be free of the pests for the entire season, Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, predicted.

### Examples Cited

He cited several examples of the effectiveness of light applications of the bug-killer—as low as one pound per acre.

In fact, he said Pennsylvania farmers have had the jump on their city cousins for more than a year. They have been spraying their cattle, barns, barnyards and homes with DDT ever since it was released for public use in 1945.

A practical demonstration of the value of DDT applied to a relatively large area was conducted last summer in Philadelphia.

When The Evening Bulletin staged its first big Fourth of July celebration in Fairmount Park in 1945, the crowds at the evening firework and

aquatic displays were pestered by droves of mosquitoes.

Last Fourth of July the Evening Bulletin invited the State Department of Agriculture to demonstrate some of its activities. It responded with an offer to rid the celebration areas of flies and mosquitoes, using DDT.

A giant blower capable of developing a wind stream of 200 miles an hour was mounted on a truck in charge of a crew of trained men.

The blower operated in the early evening of July 3 and early morning of July 4 on both sides of the Schuylkill River, where the fireworks display was to be held, and also in the vicinity of Memorial Hall.

### Only 2 Saw a Mosquito

During the fireworks show, a representative of the department questioned one hundred persons on the west bank of the river. He found only two who had seen, felt or heard a mosquito. There were no flies or mosquitoes in the area for weeks afterwards.

Dr. Guyton also told of results last summer in Luzerne County airplane spraying operations. The boroughs of Dupont, Avoca, Duryea and Moosic were free of flies, mosquitoes and other insect pests for the remainder of the summer.

The result was accomplished with a single application of DDT, spread one pound to the acre.

## Pumping Station at Queen Lane Will Get Major Facelifting

By JOHN G. McCULLOUGH  
Of The Bulletin Staff

The Queen Lane pumping station, for half a century a landmark on the East River Drive below Ridge av., at Gustine Lake, is about to experience a major facelifting.

Under plans already approved by the Fairmount Park Commission and the Art Jury, the station's yellow exterior will be coated with red brick and limestone and the towering, 150-foot smokestack will be razed, Water Bureau officials announced yesterday.

This work, the officials explained, is part of a more than \$3,000,000 program for the modernization of the Queen Lane and Lardner's Point pumping stations. Replacement of the present steam pumps with modern electrical equipment has been recommended by both the Mayor's Water Commission and the City Planning Commission.

### Work Is Under Way

Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Bureau of Water, reported that work was already well under way at both sites and estimated that the project would be completed by the end of this year.

The Queen Lane plant, in service since 1894, pumps water from the Schuylkill for treatment at Queen Lane Filters, Queen Lane and Fox st., and has a rated capacity of 160 million gallons a day. Mechanical breakdowns, however, have been frequent, officials said.

When the existing four steam pumps are replaced with electrically-driven ones, engineers say they expect a daily capacity of more than 200 million gallons. These engineers have forecast savings of as much as \$84,000 yearly through the abandonment of the coal-powered equipment at the station.

In addition to the stack, Taylor said, a sprawling boiler house on the east side of the plant will be demolished, as well as a hedge which screened this part of the station from the park drive. The hedge had been planted at the urging of beauty-conscious motorists who complained that piles of ashes conflicted with the surrounding park.

Water Bureau officials said that they are confident, however, that

no such camouflage will be needed when the renovation is completed.

Taylor said that the new design for the building will be in harmony with the surrounding park area and that the huge, arched windows will be replaced with a more functional type. The present coal storage piles along Ridge av., he added, will be removed and the area landscaped.

The Lardner's Point station, at the Delaware River and Devereaux st., Wissinoming, was erected in 1904 and supplies most of the city east of the Schuylkill. It distributes water already treated at the Torresdale Filters, and has had frequent troubles with mechanical failures and breakdowns.

### 15 Steam Pumps to Go

Here, Taylor said, 15 steam pumps will give way to only six electrically-powered ones. The capacity of the plant, however, will remain at about 210 million gallons a day.

This reduction in the amount of equipment will permit the razing of more than half of the present building as well as the removal of four large smokestacks.

In connection with these improvements, Taylor said, a small pumping station at the Torresdale Filters will be expanded to handle up to 200 million gallons daily. This entire project, he said, already is under contract and will probably be completed within another year.



# Their Job is to Taste and Smell Philadelphia's Drinking Water Every Day



**BEFORE AND AFTER**—Ed Witkowski, assistant bacteriologist at the Belmont laboratory, looks at a sample of Philadelphia drinking water before treatment. Treated water is on table



**EAU DE PHILADELPHIA**—Sniffing a sample of the city's drinking water here is Thomas F. Kinslow, an industrial waste inspector, who has been helping perform this task for the past 20 years



**BOTTOMS UP!**—Wilson Crawford, another industrial waste inspector, likes 'Schuylkill punch' so well that he drinks a dozen glass daily—and not as part of his testing job either, but at home or at the office

By HARRY HARRIS

**P**HILADELPHIA drinking water has been the target for gibes by wits, real and alleged, for a long time.

Bob Hope, during a recent visit here, declared that this is the only city where the kitchens have three water taps—"Hot," "Cold" and "No Fishing"—and where a drink of water requires a whisky chaser.

His colleague, Jerry Colonna, he claimed, was recently arrested because he had Philadelphia drinking water on his breath.

Snide remarks about "chlorine cocktails" and "Schuylkill punch" have become as much a part of the repertoire of transient critics as references to the Main Line or Billy Penn.

But four Philadelphians, whose jobs include the drinking of Philadelphia water, grin tolerantly when they come across such lampoons, continue to swallow the water daily as part of their work and then go home and voluntarily drink from one to three quarts more.

**THESE FOUR** hardy gentlemen, employees of the Bureau of Water, conduct daily taste and smell tests in the bureau's Belmont Laboratory, at Belmont av. and Ford road. They sniff and swallow samples of water from as many as 27 different points in the city—including water plants, filter stations, fire houses and police stations—and record any daily variations.

"I've been doing this work every morning for the past 18 months," says Wilson Crawford, 5935 N. Leithgow st., Olney, "and I'm completely sold on our water for taste and safety. I wouldn't drink spring water, but I drink about 12 glasses of tap water every day. I like it."

"I've tasted water all around the world," chimes in James Stinson, 5 S. 38th st., who has been assigned to the testing work for the past six months. "During two-and-a-half years in the Merchant Marine I visited Russia, England, South America, Cuba and many distant states, including Texas, and as far as I'm concerned Philadelphia water is as good as any and better than most."

These sentiments are echoed by the other two tasters—Thomas F. Kinslow, 5225 Schuylker st., who has been gulping down water at the laboratory for approximately 20 years, and James A. Moran, 1652 Downton st., a two-year man.

The latter's not much of a water-drinker ("only about a quart a day") but Kinslow averages from 10 to 12 glasses daily.

"I drink nothing but Philadelphia water," he says, and adds: "It's very good."

**SAMPLES** of Philadelphia drinking water are brought to the laboratory every morning in label-

## Smelly Shaving Goo Taboo for City's Water Tasters

**T**HE four official tasters and smellers of Philadelphia's water have to order their lives according to the requirements of their job.

"We have to take some special precautions," explains Wilson Crawford. "For instance, we can't use smelly shaving lotions or hair tonics before coming to work. If we did, we'd never be able to detect an aroma in the water."

What if a perfumed woman, visiting the laboratory, were to wander into the two rooms where the tests are conducted? "Well," says Crawford, "that would probably rule out odor tests for hours afterwards."

"Furthermore," he adds, "we have to do all our tasting before lunch, because recent eating makes it difficult to determine taste in water."

"Certain foods, like oranges, make it especially tough, and we try to skip those at breakfast."

ed bottles. Thirteen points are checked daily—all the city's water plants and the four sources of the city's supply—from the Delaware, at Torresdale, and from the Schuylkill at Queen Lane, Belmont and Roxborough.

In addition, 14 special samples are brought in at least three times a week, from scattered spots throughout the city and its suburbs.

The testers conduct the odor check first.

This consists of smelling a flask of the water, determining and recording the type of aroma, if any.

Twenty-two adjectives are used to classify different types of odors which occur in water. Among them are: fishy, pigpen, cucumber, sweetish, disagreeable, medicinal, violets and geranium.

Each sample is then given a "threshold test," that is, it is diluted with measured quantities of entirely odorless, tasteless water, until the odor is entirely gone. A threshold number is assigned to the sample, so that Water Bureau personnel may properly treat the water from which the sample was taken.

"Several of us check the same samples for from three to five hours each morning," says Crawford. "Our estimate of the type of odor frequently varies. One man's geranium is another man's aromatic. But several noses are better than one."

**TASTING FOLLOWS.** A num-



**OTHER JOBS, TOO**—When not holding water samples to lips or noses, the water-testing crew performs other laboratory duties. Here two of them, James A. Moran (center) and James Stinson (right) check drinking water's hydrogen ion content, under supervision of Walter C. Ringer

ber, from one to five, is assigned to each sample. The higher the number, the more marked the taste.

"Five," says Stinson, "would be downright horrible, but Philadelphia water before treatment is rarely even in the four category. However, what seems like a three to us might seem like a five to the average citizen."

"We swallow only one mouthful from each bottle," says Crawford, "because if you can't distinguish the very first time, there's no use going back."

The number assigned to each sample is used in subsequent treatment of the water.

**HUMAN SNIFFERS** and tasters

have been used to test Philadelphia water since about 1920, according to Sam Crawford, 1920 Dallas road, senior bacteriologist of the Belmont laboratory. A Water Bureau employee for 34 years, he served as one of the tasters for almost 20 years.

"They're essential," he says. "Despite all the progress made in water sanitation, there is still no known chemical method for detecting minute quantities of taste-and-odor producing substances in water."

"We laugh at the wisecracks—but we all drink plenty of water—

at work and at home. We know it's safe. And we know that any large city using surface supply water must have taste and odor problems."

Moreover, adds Walter C. Ringer, 4517 Conshohocken av., sanitary engineer who supervises treatment of water for the West Philadelphia area, all the gags about "chlorine cocktails" are in error.

"You never taste chlorine in the water," he says. "That chlorinous taste is due to the combination of chlorine with something else in the water. And the taste-odor process is designed to eliminate that 'something else.'"

"The taste of Philadelphia water

has been improving steadily," he adds, "especially since we started using the activated carbon treatment last April."



## Broken Meter Ruling Sought

Water Bureau Faces Chaotic Conditions

By JOHN G. McCULLOUGH  
Of The Bulletin Staff

The city will make another move to unravel a legal tangle which has left it unable to repair 36,000 broken water meters.

At the insistence of water and tax officials, it was learned yesterday, city attorneys are preparing to push for a final decision from the courts on the city's right to purchase only those repair parts manufactured by the makers of the meters.

A successful challenge to that curb more than two years ago by an independent parts dealer brought a court order banning any restriction in the city's specifications. The same order also prohibited the payment of purchases made on that basis.

Meanwhile, the water bureau's meter repair shop at 29th and Cambria sts., has been swamped with a gradually increasing backlog of broken meters. Repair parts manufacturers, fearing they would not be paid for materials delivered, have ignored the city's requests for bids.

### Owners Urged to Buy Parts

In some instances, it was learned, water bureau officials have suggested that the property owners themselves purchase needed repair parts from the manufacturers and arrange for their shipment to the city shop. This method, officials admitted, has caused considerable confusion and has resulted in many complaints.

Since the majority of homes in the city are billed for water used on the basis of meter readings, tax office officials pointed out, the continued break-down of more than 15 per cent of these devices has caused "almost chaos" in the preparation of bills.

The almost complete lack of repair parts, while it principally affects the home type of meters, is also blocking the repair of more than 1,000 large industrial and commercial meters. One large plant, it was disclosed recently had to pay back water costs of \$600,000 when its meter was finally repaired and reinstalled.

### Meter Repairs Blocked

"This situation," one official said, "is disgusting to us since it makes for extremely poor relations between the consumer and the water bureau, especially at a time when we are working for the installation of meters all over the city."

Director of Supplies and Purchases Charles H. Gragelow first inaugurated the procedure of purchasing only those parts which were made by the meter manufacturers. This system, he said, would prevent the stocking of inferior or non-fitting parts and save an estimated \$15,000 a year.

On the appeal of the independent dealer, however, the court held that the city had no right to restrict the bidding to parts made by one manufacturer or any group of manufacturers. Such action, the court warned, might be met by Federal anti-trust proceedings.

This decision, in May, 1944, also enjoined the City Controller from permitting payment for contracts predicated on such restrictions and warned that he would risk contempt proceedings in disobeying the decree.

### Clarification Sought

Action was taken during the of former controller Robert E. and last March the present controller, Frank J. Tiemann, asked for clarification of the court's decision.

At this time there were an estimated 24,000 unrepaid meters and water bureau officials were clamoring for some action to break the bottleneck.

Although Judge Gerald F. Flood did issue a further opinion it caused a wide difference of interpretation between two branches of the city government as to its meaning.



METERS, METERS EVERYWHERE AND NOT A DROP OF WATER

Stockpile of city water meters in disrepair mounts at Water Bureau's repair shop at 29th and Cambria sts.

## 400 Mains Here Break in Year

Some Have Been in Service Since 1819

Philadelphia averages 400 water main breaks a year, and while it does not have the worst record per mile in this respect in comparison with other cities, it is in the higher bracket.

One reason is the age of the city, which has some water mains that have been in service since 1819. Figures in the office of Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Bureau of Water, show 401 breaks during 1946, and 317 low-pressure and 3 high-pressure breaks so far this year. There were 531 breaks of low pressure mains giving domestic service in 1945, with 13 breaks in the high-pressure fire-fighting system.

"The chief cause of breaks," Taylor said yesterday, "is the tremendous increases in the weight of street loads. The consequent jars and heavy settlement, with resulting breaks, are mostly caused by heavy trucks."

Trolley cars are a contributing cause, because the water pipes in most instances were laid before the cars went into service, and often lie beneath the tracks, especially at street intersections.

"Water pipe is designed to stand a pressure of 100 pounds, although we do not go that high. No pipes burst from internal pressure. There is however, settlement at the joints, then come traffic jars, a limit is reached and the pipe breaks."

"Of course, raising of pressure hastens the time for the break. This year breaks have been more numerous north of Arch st. in the central city, probably due to the cleaning and lining with cement of the large steel mains in the northeast, thus cutting down the friction, and raising the minimum pressures."

"Before we are through we will line all our 36-inch and 48-inch steel mains laid between 1908 and 1912, when the filtration plants were installed, about 1,000 feet in all."

"In all the new pipes we are laying, we take into account increased shocks, such as given by a 20-ton truck traveling at high speed. We are not only putting in heavier pipe, but we are giving more careful supervision, especially of the work of the public utilities, when they lay conduits."

"We have had five breaks this year where utilities laid masonry beside mains. We now insist that a composition expansion joint material be placed around the water pipe."

## Water Tax Rise Urged for City Improvements

If Philadelphians want a better city, they probably are going to have to pay higher sewer and water assessments.

That was the prospect presented by the City Planning Commission yesterday in its annual report to Mayor Samuel.

The report suggested expenditures of \$322,792,789 for public improvements during the next six years.

It also disclosed that the commission is about to certify nine areas of the city for redevelopment into more desirable business and residential districts.

### May Attract from Suburbs

When such redevelopment occurs—and it is expected to be accomplished largely through private capital—the outflow of Philadelphia's population into the suburbs may be reversed, because the city will be a better place in which to live, work and play.

Mayor Samuel is expected to transmit the commission's report to Council at its next session. The suggestion for higher taxes did not come as a surprise to him. Edward Hopkinson, Jr., commission chairman, is known to have conferred with the Mayor in advance on the report.

In addition to advising the increased assessments, the report suggested that water meters be installed in all homes. At present, only about half of the city's dwellings are metered. Thus there is a revenue loophole; also, hundreds of thousands of gallons of water are wasted because, without a meter, there is less incentive to be economical.

### Expects Palatable Water

Hopkinson's report expresses a belief that an adequate supply of odorless and palatable water "should be a reality within a few years."

He admits that this may sound like the repetition of an old promise, but he offers data to show that something actually is being done. New pumping stations are being built at Torresdale and Fox Chase, and other stations are being rehabilitated. Ozonation equipment is going into the Belmont treatment station. Filters and reservoirs are being rehabilitated and new mains are being laid down.

This work—\$32,407,000 is earmarked for the water supply during the next six years—is partly in the nature of an experiment to see if the water can be improved without acquiring a new source. One possible new source would be the Delaware river at Wallpack Bend, near Bushkill, Pa. The commission thinks this site should be pre-empted, just in case the experiments should fail.

### Six-Year Schedule

For purposes of planning and financing, the commission operates on a six-year schedule. Each year

### How Planning Board Wants City to Spend

How the City Planning Commission would allocate the \$322,793,000 which is suggested spending during 1948-1953:

Sewerage	\$95,485,000
Water improvements	32,407,000
City-State highways	38,744,000
City arterial highways and bridges	9,322,000
City highway restoration	26,600,000
Airports	28,315,000
Transit	32,397,000
Traffic control	3,208,000
Recreation	13,688,000
Hospitals, health centers	15,545,000
Port improvements	3,044,000
Police, fire, electrical bureaus	7,582,000
Refuse disposal	4,904,000
Charitable, correctional, penal institutions	10,382,000
Libraries, museums and others	1,170,000

this schedule is revised. The \$322,792,789 expenditure recommended for 1948-53 is \$20,393,000 above that proposed for 1947-52.

Besides the waterworks projects in the 1948-53 schedule, principal objectives concern sewers and sewage treatment, highways, airports, recreation facilities, hospitals and welfare institutions.

"Dirt already is flying, contracts are being let, plans are being drawn," says the report. During 1948, an estimated \$72,677,609 will have to be spent to keep the projects on schedule.

Because of rising cost, the commission is scheduling only projects which is considers to be urgent.

## Main Break Hits Southwest Area

Inquirer 11-13-47

### Water Cut in Two Hospitals And Thousands of Homes

Thousands of homes, two hospitals and scores of industrial plants in most of Southwest Philadelphia were virtually without water last night as a result of a 48-inch main break on Warrington ave. south of 56th st.

At St. Vincent's Hospital, 70th st. and Woodland ave., 400 infant patients faced a heatless night when low pressure caused the failure of the heating system, but were finally kept warm by hastily gathered electric heaters.

The break occurred at 8:30 A. M. yesterday and Elbert Taylor, chief of the Water Bureau, said it would take until this morning to repair the damage.

The water pressure in Mercy Hospital was down to a trickle in the basement throughout the day and orderlies carried water to the upper floors of the three-story building in buckets. The nurses' home was without water entirely the superintendent said.

### BOILERS ENDANGERED

The engineer at the hospital said that if the water pressure got any lower the boilers in the hospital would have to be turned off. Large industrial plants in the area, including the huge General Electric Co. plant at 68th st. and Elmwood ave., were faced with the same situation.

Some of them closed their water mains in the afternoon so that residents could obtain a supply from 16 and 30-inch emergency feeder lines pushed into service by the Water Bureau.

### PRESSURE REDUCED

He said that he was informed that many plants shut their boilers down in the afternoon. The pressure, he continued, was reduced to about 15 pounds in one section, which is not enough to carry it to the upper floors of homes. The normal pressure, he declared is 100 pounds.

The main where the break occurred is one of two large feeder lines supplying West Philadelphia, Taylor said. The other line, a 40-inch running under 52d st., also was put into emergency service.

### SPOUTS LIKE A GEYSER

The water from the break spouted like a geyser from the pavement adjacent to the curb line in front of the homes of Mrs. Emma Sinclair at 1516 S. 56th st., and Mrs. C. W. Adams, at 1514 S. 56th st.

Water which gushed from the break in enormous quantities raised the sidewalk in front of the two homes about eight inches. It overflowed the sidewalk and rushed over a small retaining wall in front of the lawns of Mrs. Sinclair's and Mrs. Adams' homes, and washed away part of their lawns.

Tons of water also cascaded down an incline on 56th st. for two blocks to Florence ave., where some sections were covered from curb to curb because of backed-up sewers. No home were reported flooded in the area.

### FIRE IN 52D ST. AREA

The area most seriously affected was that of 82d st. and Eastwick ave., where water was not to be had even from fireplugs. Officers of Engine 29 and Truck 26, at 82d st. and Tintum ave., said, however, that they were prepared to fight small fires that might break out.

Apparatus of both companies is equipped with auxiliary booster tanks containing hundred of gallons of water, as is that of Engine 68, at 50th st. and Baltimore ave.

Also affected by the water scarcity was the police station at 65th st. and Wooland ave.

Late in the afternoon about 50 housewives, armed with buckets and pots, lined up in front of a fireplug at 67th st. and Paschall ave. and filled their containers, assisted by police. Similar scenes took place throughout the affected section.

### CARRY WATER TO FIRE

Last night firemen from 50th st. and Baltimore ave carried water in a 100-gallon booster tank with a pumper to put out a fire in an automobile at Cobbs Creek Parkway and Hoffman st.



# City Fights Private Dam as Threat to Water Plan

## Power Company Seeks Rights on Upper Delaware

Samuel Invites State to Join in Protest to Federal Commission

By JAMES C. BLELOCH  
Of The Bulletin Staff

Philadelphia has made two new moves toward pegging down its claim on the Wallpack Bend area of the Upper Delaware as a future source of the city's water.

A formal protest from Mayor Samuel to the Federal Power Commission seeks to block a proposal of the Electric Power Co. of New Jersey, Inc., for electric power development and the sale of water to communities.

It attacks the proposal as monopolistic, usurping rights established elsewhere, contrary to law, and one that would more than quadruple the cost of water production to the city.

In a letter to Governor James M. Duff, the Mayor asked that Attorney General T. McKean Chidsey consider the advisability of filing a state protest with the FPC against the power company's application.

A copy of the city's protest, citing 12 reasons in support of its action, was sent to the Governor for study by the Attorney General. Legal papers and accompanying letters, prepared by City Solicitor Frank F. Truscott, were signed by the Mayor late Friday, it was learned.

### Big Program at Stake

At stake is a \$284,588,000 development program recommended by the former Philadelphia Water Commission and which is wholly dependent on the Wallpack Bend area.

Further, the city recently applied to the Water and Power Resources Board of the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters for the right to pre-empt waters of the Upper Delaware in the Pocono Mountains.

The power company has made application for a license for a water power project on the Delaware River in Sussex and Warren Counties, N. J.; Pike, Monroe and Northampton Counties, Pa., and Orange County, N. Y.

The city protests for the following reasons:

1. The proposed project will nullify the city's plans to erect a water ponding dam.
2. The applicant has assumed that any such license granted to it would give it the ownership of water for water supply purposes, and has offered to sell it to Philadelphia at 135 per 1,000,000 gallons, when in fact the city can produce the same quantity of water for \$32.

### City's Rights Threatened

3. The company has no authority to apply to FPC for water supply rights for and on behalf of Philadelphia, and any such application is a usurpation of the city's legal rights. It also usurps the right to the U. S. Supreme Court to regulate the appropriation of water from the Delaware River drainage basin, and comparable rights of New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania to appropriate water.

4. The application is contrary to laws of all the States involved, and would operate to give a monopoly on the water supply of the entire Delaware River Basin to a private corporation.

5. Congress has not authorized granting of a license to permit a private corporation to appropriate water for water supply purposes. Irreparable Injury Feared

6. It would be against public policy to endanger the water supply of millions of persons by allowing a private company to acquire the ownership of waters in a power dam for the purpose of selling the same as a water supply, and it would constitute taking of property of the several States.

7. The building of the dam and the allocation of its impounded waters will result in irreparable injury to the rights of the several States and of their citizens and will operate to destroy the interests of property owners in the entire valley of the Delaware River, for the ultimate profit of a small group of individuals.

8. There is grave doubt of the financial resources of the applicant being sufficient to carry out the construction work, and the granting of the license would constitute merely a bargaining point to interfere with and delay the proper development of the said water supply sources by cities and States.

### Against Public Policy

9. The granting of the license would operate to convert public property to private use, contrary to public policy and to the absolutely necessary requirements of the public in an adequate water supply.

10. Construction of the dam would seriously impede the navigability of the Delaware River.

11. Granting of the certificate would violate the rights guaranteed to the States and their citizens under the Constitution.

12. The grant would be unwise, improper and unlawful for many other reasons, which the city requests the right to offer at any hearing on the application.

## 2 Groups Attack Water Boost Plan

Mayor Bernard Samuel's request to City Council for an immediate 20 percent increase in existing water and sewer rents to finance municipal water and sewer improvements was attacked yesterday on two fronts.

The Apartment Owners and Managers Association went on record opposing the proposed boost as did the Democratic County Executive Committee. Both organizations had different reasons for fighting the hike in water rents.

## 50 Pct. Rise Possible In City's Water Rentals

INQUIRER By WILLIAM F. FEIST JUNE 1, 1948

Legislation increasing water rents for both commercial and household users is being prepared by the City Solicitor's office and will be introduced in City Council within a few weeks, Director of Public Works Thomas Buckley disclosed yesterday.

Buckley refused to estimate the increased costs, but other sources said rentals probably would rise 50 percent.

### CALLS BOOSTS IMPERATIVE

It was indicated the boosts would be sufficient to raise about \$5,000,000 annually. Last year's water rent receipts totaled \$7,881,419.

Buckley declared that increased water rents were imperative if the city's water improvement program was to continue. Without the additional revenue, he said, the vast program would have to stop.

He said that only \$250,000 remained of the original \$18,000,000 voted by the electorate in 1940 to improve the municipal water system. Since then the program has been greatly extended, with the result that, partially owing to high prices,

Continued on Page 17, Column 3

## City Water Rents May Rise 50%

By WILLIAM F. FEIST  
Continued From First Page

the completed project probably will cost an additional \$42,000,000.

"We have about reached the end of available funds for the water improvement program," Buckley added. "We must find new money to continue the project or it will have to stop."

Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Water Bureau, said the original program was expanded to include taste and odor control through chemical processes, including ozonation. This phase of the work is not only expensive, but involves a great deal of experimentation.

Much of the program, Taylor explained, was halted during the war and the scarcity of materials in the postwar period added to the delay.

### NEW FILTER PLANTS

He said the water program provided for new filter plants with double filtration beds at all municipal pumping stations, but due to the war and scarcity of essential materials, the bureau had to be content with rehabilitation of the existing filtration plants. Ultimately all will be replaced.

Installation of electrical and pumping equipment is about 75 percent completed, he added, but this portion of the program also stopped without additional funds.

The plan to expand the original water improvement program was proposed by Mayor Samuel's Water Commission as an alternative to looking elsewhere for another source of water.

It was the commission's opinion that good drinking water was possible from present sources if the suggested improvements were made.

## Water Bureau Will be Probed

BULLETIN-7/31/48 '15' Will Hire Expert To Make Analysis

The Water Bureau came under Committee of Fifteen scrutiny today.

A decision to look into all operations of the city agency was announced by Colonel Robert K. Sawyer, the committee's staff director.

He said an expert will be hired soon to make an "operational analysis" of the Bureau, presumably to give the committee material bearing on the flat 20 per cent water rate increase proposed by the City Planning Commission.

The committee conceded the need for increased revenue, but contended that a flat hike would aggravate inequities in the rate structure.

Sawyer told reporters that he planned conferences in the next few days with Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Water Bureau, and Charles H. Howland, chief of the Division of Projects of the Planning Commission, on the proposed rate change.

He added that he personally felt—and the "15" agreed—that any rate rise would have to be based on complete overhaul of the existing structure, which has not been altered since 1916.

Sawyer said that large water users are being subsidized by small, home owners who are paying for water they do not use.

The study of Water Bureau activities, besides forming the basis for the committee's rate recommendations, is designed to show the need for compulsory universal metering and a planned long-term program for improvement.

Sawyer said that there was "imminent danger" of Bureau expenses exceeding revenue. In such a case, the city's water plant no longer would be self-supporting. Water Works bonds would become part of the city's general debt, which is close to the legal limit.

Sawyer said that water revenue this year is expected to reach about \$7,300,000, and that expenses probably would fall within \$90,000 of this figure.

## Water Rate Rise Called Urgent

INQUIRER By WILLIAM F. FEIST

A sharp increase in existing water rates is necessary to forestall a collapse in the city's water improvement program, The Inquirer learned yesterday.

With less than \$2,000,000 remaining of an original \$18,000,000 appropriation to rehabilitate the municipality's water system, city officials have reluctantly concluded that the rates must be boosted if the long-range water improvement program is to continue.

### DISAGREE WITH '15'

They disagree with the Committee of Fifteen's contention that a reduction in the minimum amount of water allowed consumers for a flat rate of \$8 annually would furnish enough revenue to carry on the work.

While this would help, these same officials insist that construction costs have risen so sharply that a jump of 25 to 50 percent in existing water rents is essential to carry on the improvement program.

### 60 MILLION MINIMUM

Both Director of Public Works Thomas Buckley and Elbert J. Taylor, Chief of the Water Bureau, estimate that a minimum of \$60,000,000, including funds already allocated for the program, is needed to rehabilitate the water system and give Philadelphia a palatable and odorless water from the present source.

This expenditure would have to be made, they pointed out, regardless of whether the city ultimately goes to an upland source or uses the Delaware River exclusively for the municipality's water needs.

Work already under way in connection with the program includes: Installation of electrical pumping equipment at Lardner's Point.

New filter units at Torresdale Pumping Station.

Re-inforcement of large mains and extension and improvement of small mains, principally in connection in areas where new housing developments are under way.

Filtration improvements, including modern chlorinators, chemical feeding equipment and cleaning of sedimentation reservoirs at all filter plants.

### 4 MILLION ITEM

Taylor said the replacement of private water lines, largely in sections which are now being built up, with modern cast iron mains will cost \$4,000,000 alone.

In addition to these, he said there are about 100 miles of cast iron pipe installed prior to 1847 which are so badly corroded or plugged with deposit that a minimum of \$20,000,000 will have to be spent to clean or relined them with concrete. In some cases, he said, the corrosion is so bad they will have to be replaced.

### SERIOUS DRAWBACK

He said that one serious drawback in past years was that revenue from water rents went into the city's general treasury, with the result the money was spent for things other than water improvements.

Taylor said that policy should be reversed, pointing out that all such revenue should be earmarked exclusively for the water improvement program. This is essential if the program is to be carried out without periodic increases in water rates.

The alternative to a boost in the rates would be to borrow funds to do the work, but inasmuch as the water system has been declared self-supporting by the courts it is possible that this additional obligation—while not a lien against the city's borrowing power—would result in a situation where income from water rents would not be sufficient to liquidate the city's investment in the water system.

## Council Leaders Move to Increase Water Rents 20%

BULLETIN 7/13/48 Garman Calls Caucus On Proposal Despite Fear of Public Outcry

By JOHN C. CALPIN  
Of The Bulletin Staff

Despite fears that "the taxpayers won't stand for it," leaders of City Council moved today to increase water rentals by 20 per cent or more.

The plan, which has been discussed quietly for two months, came out into the open when Frederic D. Garman, president of Council, called a caucus on water rates today in his office.

Invited were the members of Council, Edward Hopkinson, Jr., chairman of the City Planning Commission; Director of Public Works Thomas Buckley; Elbert J. Taylor, head of the Water Bureau; William F. Meade, chairman of the Republican City Committee; Sheriff Austin Meehan; City Solicitor Frank F. Truscott and Assistant City Solicitor Herman Schwartz.

Garman and others intimately acquainted with the city's finances fear, it is said, that if Water Bureau income fails to come up to estimates this year the city budget will be upset.

### Borrowing Capacity

In addition, too little water income could result in curtailment of the city's borrowing power.

The water works, as long as it is self-supporting, can borrow money outside of the city debt limit, now close to exhaustion. If the water works were to lose money, any borrowing for improvements would have to be done within the debt limit.

The water works rehabilitation program, undertaken with a view to getting the taste and odor out of city water, has used up almost \$18,000,000 in loan funds. Thus failure of the water revenues to equal estimates would endanger any expansion of the rehabilitation program.

The 20 per cent increase tentatively proposed would be in flat rentals, which are fixed by the number and kind of outlets in use. In the metered service, a reduction of the amount allowed for a certain charge would be made. At present, the typical householder on metered service gets 60,000 gallons a year for about \$8.

### Fifty Pct. Considered

Twenty per cent is by no means a firm figure for an increase, however. There has even been discussion of a 50 per cent increase.

Whatever the decision of the caucus, the Council leaders fear that some of the members will fight any proposed increase. One member has remarked that he would oppose any increase in an election year.

Others have expressed the fear that the ratepayers, in view of the city tax theft scandal, would adopt the attitude of: "Clean house before you raise taxes or meter-charges."

Current sales of city water brought in \$6,796,708 last year. This, with delinquency collections and

Continued on Page 2, Column 7

## Water Rent #2 7/13/48

Continued from the First Page  
other income, made the bureau's total income \$7,697,619. Delinquencies were \$719,851 for the year. For 1930-46, inclusive, delinquencies aggregated \$2,417,417. \$7,624,510 Income

The income of the Bureau for this year, based on a three-year average, has been estimated for budget purposes at \$7,624,510. A 20 per cent increase, it is thought, would bring in an additional \$1,500,000.

An increase in water rentals apparently would also automatically increase sewer rentals, on which the city's five-year, \$42,000,000 sewerage construction program is based.

The sewer rental ordinance, upheld by the State Supreme Court in 1945, provided that 60 per cent of the water rents would be levied as a sewer rate during the first year. The sewer rents then increase by ten per cent yearly until they equal the water rentals.

Council, therefore, in raising water rents, would either have to raise sewer charges in the same proportion or enact a new sewer rental ordinance to change the relationship of the two charges.

## Gov. Duff Jeers At Phila. Water

INQUIRER-5-5-4

PITTSBURGH, May 5 (AP).—Gov. James H. Duff today asked the 500,000-member State Federation of Labor to help him in his stream clearance and reforestation program.

Speaking extemporaneously at the AFL's annual state convention, Duff declared: "We have to show every citizen the value of such a program. With your help, I'll guarantee you it will be carried forth as long as I'm in Harrisburg. It won't be a blue-print, but something you can see."

### CRITICIZES PHILA. WATER

Duff was bitterly critical of the water supply in many sections of the State, especially in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, where river water is used. Speaking of the Pittsburgh water supply, he remarked: "It is as bad as you could make it if you tried your worst."

The Governor said the stream clearance and reforestation program he advocates—which also includes development of recreational areas—is being opposed in some circles "because it will cost them a little money." That, he said, is one reason why he wants the help of the AFL and other organizations.

### FLEA FOR PLAYGROUNDS

Commenting on the need for more recreational areas, he said: "Instead of thinking of bigger and better reform schools, let us think of bigger and better recreational facilities to keep the kids out of those schools."

The Governor was praised by James McDevitt, State AFL president, who said: "Our relations with the Governor have been excellent. I recall how, at the last session of the Legislature, he said he would not sign any punitive labor legislation."

Duff, who was cheered frequently, replied that he believed the AFL is "one of the greatest stabilizing influences in the country" today. He declared: "I realize that when you have great business you must have power to unions to protect yourselves."

## \$153,000,000 In Loans Needed For City Works

BULLETIN 6-Year Plan Requires

Total of \$323,000,000, Research Bureau Notes

MAY 1948

Philadelphia will have to borrow at least \$153,000,000 if it hopes to complete its scheduled six-year program of public improvements, the Bureau of Municipal Research reported yesterday.

In an analysis of the municipal loan situation, the bureau pointed out that projects expected to cost at least \$323,000,000 have been planned for the period. Available funds, including those authorized in the recent primary election, total less than \$170,000,000.

This available total, the Bureau said, consists of \$140,992,000 in loans already authorized, as well as an expected borrowing capacity of about \$3,470,000 which City Council itself could use without the approval of the voters. In addition, there is still some borrowing capacity for the city itself, within the debt limit set by the City Charter.

In last Tuesday's voting, approval was given to the borrowing of \$38,775,000 in new loans, and the voters also assented to another proposal which opened the way for this City Council borrowing power.

The Bureau of Municipal Research estimated that about \$81,000,000 of the money the city must borrow will be expended on water and sewerage projects. This amount, since it is largely carried by payments of water and sewer rents, is considered self-supporting, and would not be a charge against borrowing capacity.

It was indicated, however, in the bureau's report that increased water charges may be necessary to keep this fund in the self-supporting class. Recently, several city agencies have urged increased water rents, pointing out that the city's water system is barely managing to stay in operation as a self-sustaining unit at present rates.

In its analysis, too, the bureau emphasized that it was limiting its estimates to the presently calculated cost of the improvement program and warned that expenses might increase considerably. The bureau also pointed out that actual improvement needs during the six-year period will considerably exceed the amount scheduled.

"It is not at all surprising, therefore, that the projects recommended and scheduled by the City Planning Commission for the six-year period from 1948 to 1953 total \$323,000,000," the report said.



# Water Chief Denounces Decrepit Meter System

Philadelphia's decrepit water meter system, which allows the consumer to own the meter that tells him what he owes—and even to tamper with it, if he has larcenous talents—were denounced yesterday by Elbert J. Taylor, mild-mannered chief of the Department of Public Works' Bureau of Water.

## Water Rent Rise Asked by Samuel

INQUIRER 7/4/48

Acting on the recommendation of the City Planning Commission, Mayor Bernard Samuel yesterday proposed to City Council an immediate increase of 20 percent in existing water and sewer rents in order to finance the municipal water and sewer improvement programs.

The suggestion was immediately attacked by Frederick J. Bohrer, president of the Philadelphia Real Estate Board, as an added burden on the home owner "under today's inflationary cost of living."

### SERIOUS THOUGHT URGED

"Serious thought regarding increased water rents," he wrote in a letter to Frederick D. Garman, president of City Council, "should be preceded by a careful, analytical study by professional, competent persons who would report to Mayor Samuel or to City Council."

He said such a study should embrace all phases of the subject, including a determination of the equity of present rates.

The Planning Commission, in a letter to the Mayor, explained that the original \$18,000,000 loan for water system improvements had been expended and that a deficiency of \$373,000 would have to be met by the end of the current year.

"This deficiency must be promptly made available and provision must be made to provide the necessary money to carry on in 1949 and the immediately following years," Edward Hopkinson, Jr., chairman of the commission, declared in the letter.

"While the complete improvement program will run into expenditures approximating \$35,000,000 over the next five or six years, including the 1948 deficiency, it is recommended that there be made self-supporting at this time, say, \$20,000,000 additional water debt."

### CALLED SELF-SUPPORTING

The water system has been declared self-supporting by the courts and so that it may remain so, Hopkinson pointed out, it will be necessary to increase the sewer and water rents 20 percent to finance the increased cost of the water debt.

Commenting on the proposed sewer rent increase, Hopkinson declared:

"At present levels of cost approximately \$30,000,000 additional (in addition to the \$42,000,000 already authorized) will be required to expand and improve sewage collection facilities and to complete the expanded Northeast plant and the proposed southeast and southwest sewage treatment plants."

### RATES INSUFFICIENT

"Sever revenue at present rates will not be sufficient to make self-supporting this additional debt and pay operating expenses at the higher costs now prevailing."

Hopkinson proposed that the new debt be financed through the issuance from time to time of 40-year serial bonds; that a separate budget system be set up for the water system as is done for sewers and that city-wide compulsory water metering be adopted as rapidly as possible.

The Mayor's recommendation was referred to Council's Finance Committee for action.

Samuel also asked Council to appropriate \$75,000 to continue operation of child care centers under supervision of the Board of Education.

## Water Rent Boost or Else

The future both of Philadelphia's water supply and of its general improvement program are tied directly to the amount of water rent income, and both futures look rather dismal with income at its present level.

Water debt is now outside the general debt limit, because the rents cover the operating and debt costs. But right now the income isn't much more than carrying the debt, so that if there is to be any more debt, there must be more income.

Either that, or the whole water debt will cease to be self-supporting and become a charge against the general borrowing capacity. It is not impossible that even without further water borrowing, rising operating costs would make the income insufficient to carry operating and debt costs.

Philadelphians will not relish a rise in water rents, and the public officials who are discussing an increase doubtless know that their theme will not be popular. Yet the public may relish even less the consequences of keeping the present rates. The alternatives are disagreeable, but are sternly decreed by the State Constitution.

## Water Rates Structure

If City Council decides that water and sewer rents must be raised, it will be smart to make this the occasion not simply for a rate increase, but for a scientific rate revision.

The easy way, of course, would be to jump all the rates by a given percentage. That method simply freezes into the new charges all the existing faults of the rate structure.

In considering water-works finances City Council rarely seems able to see anything but the income side of the picture. An increase of gross income will increase net income, which is the only figure that really means anything; but net income can also be increased by a reduction of operating costs.

Operating costs can be reduced, and net income increased, by a rate structure that gives consumers an incentive to keep down the amount of water that has to be purified and pumped.

Metering of unmetered services is one way to conserve; but there are conservation possibilities even with the metered consumers. The reasonable needs of a large proportion of metered consumers are less than the quantity of water they are charged for whether they use it or not. So there is a spread in which they can be wasteful without feeling even a tingling of the pocketbook nerve.

A consumer of electric current who had to pay for twice as much current as he needed would probably howl pretty loudly. Whether he howled or not, nobody could argue that such an arrangement gave any encouragement to keep consumption at a minimum.

## Councilmen Eye Water Rent Rise

City Council leaders brought out into the open yesterday a program to increase water rents by at least 20 percent in an effort to keep the system self-supporting and provide needed funds to carry out their long-range improvement plans.

The plan was discussed at a caucus in the City Hall offices of Frederick D. Garman, president of Council. Other participants included Edward Hopkinson, Jr., chairman of the City Planning Commission; Director of Public Works Thomas Buckley, and Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Water Bureau.

### BATTLE EXPECTED

The proposed increases, quietly discussed for about two months, might be for more than 20 percent, and leaders admitted there had been discussion of a 50 percent boost. Conversely, there has been objection to any increase and it was believed some members of Council would fight a rise in rates.

At present, the water system is self-supporting but its funds have been almost exhausted because its receipts have not been up to expectations. Sales of city water last year brought in \$6,796,706. With delinquency collections and other income, the total received by the bureau reached \$7,697,619. The income for this year, based on a three-year average, has been estimated for budget purposes at \$7,624,510.

### ESTIMATED AT \$1,500,000

A 20 percent increase, it is figured, would bring in an additional \$1,500,000 in revenue.

As long as it is self-supporting, the water works can borrow money outside of the city debt limit, now close to exhaustion. But any borrowing for improvements would have to be done within the debt limit if the water works were to lose money.

The original loan of \$18,000,000 for improvements was approved by the voters in 1940 and this has about been expended. To finish the program, it is estimated that the water bureau will require an additional \$35,000,000.

Due to the tieup of sewer rentals with water rates, it is believed that any increase in the water rentals would necessarily mean a boost in sewer rates unless Council would act a new sewer rental ordinance change the relationship of the charges.

## BULLETIN 7/14/48 Democrats Score Mayor For Asking Water Rise

Mayor Samuel was denounced in a statement issued by the Democratic City Committee today, for proposing a 20 per cent increase in city water and sewer rents.

The proposed rise was called "a piece of enormous effrontery" in view of the Mayor's failure to do anything about the shocking conditions in the Water Bureau which are costing the city untold millions of dollars of revenue from existing taxes.

"The salient and significant fact about the recent disclosures of huge thefts, cheating and inefficiency in Philadelphia's municipal government," the statements continued, "is the complete lack of indignation shown by the Mayor and his puzzling failure to provide any leadership to the people in bringing about a correction of the appalling conditions."

## PHILADELPHIA WATER RENT MAY GO UP 20%



## Foot Collect All That Is Due the City

As a matter of efficient municipal house-keeping, Philadelphia's water system should be self-sustaining.

If the available income is not sufficient to meet the ordinary operating expenses and the charges on the loans floated for water plant improvements, the only sensible course is to increase the income.

And if the only means of increasing it lies in a boost in the water rates, as proposed by City Council and endorsed by the Committee of Fifteen, then that means should be adopted.

But the water rates should not be jumped unless it is proved conclusively that there is no other method at hand for obtaining the extra amount of water plant revenue that is needed.

We do not believe such proof has yet been offered at City Hall.

We do not believe that every means of collecting the money due the city from water rents at the rates now in force has been exhausted.

It has been shown, for instance, that the whole water rate structure is faulty, archaic and badly administered. In supporting the proposed increase, the Committee of Fifteen has inserted the qualifying demand for a vigorous revision of this structure.

There has been ample evidence for years that the existing system of collecting water rents is sloppy and inefficient. Many water consumers are not paying their bills. It may be that an enormous number are never even billed.

One of the charges brought against Receiver of Taxes W. Frank Marshall was that he failed to take action against persons who misused water meters, "thus defrauding the city out of large sums of money."

Perhaps the outstanding defect in the water system is the city's failure to install meters at all outlets. Meterage is only about 50 percent complete and there has been a log jam on meter repair.

In the absence of meters, there is a constant wasteful drain upon the city's water resources without recompense. The first obvious step in placing the water bureau on a businesslike basis is universal meterage; yet this has been persistently neglected.

In view of the city's loss of water income due to the above factors, an arbitrary 20 percent rise in water rates is not to be calmly accepted.

The move is reminiscent of Council's attempt last fall to increase the city wage tax rates in order to balance this year's budget. The Inquirer at that time called for a halt in the tax rise plan until a committee appointed by the Mayor and Council could examine ways and means of avoiding it.

As a result the Committee of Fifteen was named and conducted an intensive survey that ended with the conclusion that the suggested wage tax boost was unnecessary. Council thereupon retained the old rates and the taxpayers escaped a substantial increase in their tax burden.

It may be that the same thing can happen in the water rent situation, provided the city authorities cooperate in seeking to avert an increase at this time.

A reorganization of the system of water rent collection is unquestionably demanded, to obtain for the city all the money from this source that is owed it. Revision of the rate structure upon more equitable and businesslike lines is needed, and, above all, meters should be universally installed.

Before directing a water rate boost of 20 percent, Council should have a study made of these and other possible ways of expanding water revenues. If the resultant report shows that the rates must be raised, the citizens will at least be better informed than they now are on the reasons for such a move.

There should be no increase until every method of avoiding it, by maximum water rent collection, has been employed.



# Water Rent Increase Of 20 Pct. Is Urged by Committee of Fifteen

**INQUIRER - 7-29-48**  
A resolution approving a program to increase water rents by at least 20 percent in an effort to make the water system self-sustaining was approved yesterday by the Committee of Fifteen.

At the same time, the committee agreed to postpone action on compulsory retirement for the Bureaus of Police and Fire and on a report regarding the Police and Firemen's Pension Funds until its next scheduled meeting.

## TAKING LONG RECESS

It was learned that the next regular meeting will not take place until after Labor Day. However, the committee empowered Col. Robert K. Sawyer, its executive director, to call an extraordinary session if it is deemed necessary.

The action on the water rents proposal was taken after the resolution was presented by Arthur W. Binns, committee chairman. The matter is now being considered by City Council, but it was also disclosed that the City Planning Commission had suggested at least a part of the proposal.

Unanimous approval of the resolution was voted.

## FULL REVISION URGED

The approval was voted with a provision that the recommendations of the planning body regarding "proper revision" of the entire water rate structure "be sincerely and vigorously prosecuted to a conclusion."

The resolution read: "While we recognize that the vast improvement in our water and sewage system requires the expenditure of many millions of dollars and therefore makes it necessary to increase at this time the income from water, we, as a committee, believe that there is much room for improvement in the general efficiency of the

Water Department with opportunities to better the collection of water rents.

"Our committee will therefore continue its efforts to that end.

"In order that there be no delay or interruption of the capital improvement program of the water system, we approve the proposed 20-percent increase in water rents, provided the recommendations of the City Planning Commission with reference to a proper revision of the entire water rate structure be sincerely and vigorously prosecuted to a conclusion.

"We have instructed our staff to cooperate with the proper officials in the Water Bureau and the staff of the City Planning Commission to this end."

## INDUSTRIALISTS ORGANIZE

As the action was taken, a group of industrial users of water formed a committee to investigate the situation in regard to its effect on them. They announced opposition to any increases until a thorough study shows the need for such a boost.

Lindsay H. Mason, vice president of the Philadelphia Textile Manufacturers' Association, was named chairman, and Cantry Davis, of the Laundry Board of Trade, was chosen secretary.

## POLICE PENSION FUND

A short discussion preceded the agreement to postpone action on the Police and Firemen's Funds question. It concerned a report submitted to the committee by Colonel Sawyer.

In reaching the postponement decision, the committee agreed to summon Police Sgt. Frank E. Riggs and Patrolman George A. Haddon to the next meeting. They devote full time to pension work.

Sawyer in his report recommended that certain uniformed members of both funds be placed on active duty and replaced by civilians in their

fund duties.

Philadelphia Water Department  
Historical Collection  
2004.019.0024B

# 5' to Have Water Bill Ready in 30 to 60 Days

**INQUIRER - 7/31/48**

## 20 Percent Over-All Rise Sought

**EDITORIAL - BULLETIN - 7/30/48**  
**Water and Sewer Economics**

In the effort to make Philadelphia's water and sewer debt self-supporting, City Council, concentrating on a single item in the formula, the gross income, might decide at a 20 per cent rise in income is necessary, and raise present water rents by 20 per cent.

That would be a rough and ready approach but hardly a fair one for consumers. The problem is to get enough from water rents to pay debt and operating costs of waterworks and sewerage system, it is obvious that the boost in rents can be smaller if the operating costs are reduced. Hence no increase in rents without consideration of whether operating costs is justified.

Perhaps investigation would reveal that personnel and administrative costs could be reduced. However that may be, experts have been telling the city for many years that operating costs can be cut by reducing water waste. Too much water is pumped, purified, and delivered to consumers only to run down drains and put unnecessary burdens on the sewers.

Universal metering is one way to cut waste. Another is to establish a schedule of meter charges that will discourage waste.

When the possibilities of cutting operating costs have been explored, it will be easier to decide how much the gross income needs to be increased, and how the rates should be revised for each class of consumer. Council has

not yet decided to have the necessary

## Engineer Named For Water Study

**INQUIRER - 8-1-48**

The appointment of Nathan Jacobs, member of a Pittsburgh firm of engineering consultants, to prepare a new water rate structure for Philadelphia was approved yesterday afternoon by the Committee of Fifteen.

Following an executive session of the committee, Robert K. Sawyer, executive director of the agency, said Jacobs had been asked to prepare a set of rate schedules which would return to the city about \$9,000,000 annually, a sum considered sufficient to maintain the present water system, liquidate its present debt, and continue it as a self-supporting project. The present rates, which are considered to be inequitable in many respects.

Jacobs has acted as consultant to the Water Bureau in several capacities in the past. His fees for the new appointment will be met from the \$50,000 appropriated to the Committee of Fifteen by City Council to carry on its work.

# '15' Urges Water Rent Rate Boost

**INQUIRER - 9-30-48**  
An increase in water rents ranging from 10 to 25 percent was recommended yesterday by the Committee of Fifteen on the basis of a report by Nathan B. Jacobs, consulting water engineer for both committee and the Department of Public Works.

Such an increase, it was estimated, would add \$1,400,000 to city's annual revenue and bring aggregate water receipts up to a total of about \$9,300,000 a year. The figure was considered sufficient to maintain the water system and to pay for a self-supporting project.

## SLIDING SCALE URGED

The proposed increases will probably be introduced in City Council today in the form of an ordinance but the proposal already faces objections on the part of the Chamber of Commerce. A letter from Cleme V. Conole, general manager of the chamber, to Councilman Clarence K. Crossan, chairman of City Council's finance committee, pointed out that such an increase "might easily develop to the disadvantage of Philadelphia."

On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, Conole warned that a flat increase of 25 percent in the rates paid by commercial and industrial users of water "would work adversely in our efforts to maintain existing industry and encourage new plants to come to this city."

Instead of a flat increase, Conole said, the chamber was recommending a sliding scale for large water users. Under the Jacobs plan, which will be threshed out at a public hearing to be held by Council's finance committee, the small metered houses and business establishments would have their water rates increased about 10 percent. Large users of water would face an increase of 16 percent, while unmetered water users would have to pay 25 percent more.

It was understood that advocates of the plan hoped that unmetered users of water would thereby be forced to install meters, which the city puts in and maintains at the property owner's expense.

Under the Jacobs plan, which will be threshed out at a public hearing to be held by Council's finance committee, the small metered houses and business establishments would have their water rates increased about 10 percent. Large users of water would face an increase of 16 percent, while unmetered water users would have to pay 25 percent more.

## WOULD HALVE MINIMUM

There are an estimated 250,000 unmetered users of water in Philadelphia. For metered homes and business establishments, the rate increase would be accomplished by cutting the minimum water allowance by 50 percent while at the same time maintaining the minimum. At present, the average metered dwelling is allowed 8000 cubic feet of water for \$8. Under the Jacobs plan, the same home would be charged \$8 for 4000 cubic feet, the cost of additional water ranging from 40 to 45 cents per 1000 cubic feet.

Thus, a householder who uses only 4000 cubic feet would pay increase whatever, whereas a property owner who actually used 8000-foot minimum allowance would pay \$1.80 more.

## ESTIMATED INCREASES LIST

It was estimated that the increase in revenue would be obtained as follows: about \$184,000 from the small meter renters, about \$510,000 from the big water users and about \$7,000,000 from water users who have no meters.

The Chamber of Commerce let a recommended sliding scale for large water users "so as to avoid adding to any reasons for moving from the city, or for not locating within its limits."

"We are convinced," Conole informed Crossan, "that this is by no means an idle threat. Records definitely prove that Philadelphia will have to maintain each of its advantages and create more—if it fails to grow industrially. Needless to say, an exodus of industry or a halt in industrial development would have an adverse effect on the city's income and payrolls."

# '15' May Urge Increase Of 25% in Water Rates

**INQUIRER - 9-15-48**  
Legislation to effect a general rise of 25 percent in Philadelphia water rates will be introduced in City Council next Thursday. It was indicated yesterday by the Committee of Fifteen, at the close of a hearing in City Hall where several organizations offered their views on present rates.

Some change in the rate of increase may be effected if the Committee of Fifteen hears conflicting testimony at its next scheduled meeting on Wednesday, but there was little doubt yesterday that the committee would fight for a general rise of some sort.

The purpose of the increase, which was supported yesterday by large industrial organizations and the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, is to help liquidate the \$30,000,000 indebtedness of the City Water Bureau within the next five years. At present, the city is losing money on its water expenditures.

Representatives of the Chamber of Commerce agreed in the closing session of the committee's hearings that the recommendation of Nathan Jacobs, the engineer who has acted as consultant to the committee, for a 25 percent increase, should be put

into effect, with the proviso of a sliding scale for smaller consumers.

Earlier, the Committee of Commercial-Industrial Water Users, a newly created group representing 15 textile manufacturers, laundries,

brewers, theaters, hotels, milk distributors, tanners and such users of huge quantities of water, had put in their claim to lower rates. They said the burden of water should be partly shifted to smaller consumers, who cause more expense to the water bureau.

Referring to Jacob's own report on "inequities" in charges, they proposed that all domestic consumers be charged a minimum of \$10 a year, as against the present \$8. There are 500,000 domestic consumers. All water in excess of 4000 cubic feet should be charged at the rate of 50 cents a thousand cubic feet, it was proposed.

In justification of its proposal, the organization pointed out that Jacobs had proposed a rise of rates for smaller consumers and an increase which "is neither equitable nor fair" for larger consumers.

"The City of Philadelphia must do something to encourage and not penalize businesses already in Philadelphia and to induce others to come," said the committee. "There is no particular reason for many companies to remain in Philadelphia when a small percentage of goods of services produced is delivered to Philadelphia users, whereas a much greater percentage is shipped elsewhere."

## Engineer Will Draw Up Water Rate Schedule

Nathan Jacobs, member of Morris Knowles Co., Pittsburgh, a firm of engineers, has been named by the Committee of Fifteen to draw up a proposed new water rate schedule here.

Jacobs, who has been a consulting engineer for the Department of Public Works, was ordered yesterday to work out a schedule that would bring in an annual revenue of \$9,000,000. Present return is between \$7,000,000 and \$7,500,000. City Council's finance committee will hold a public hearing next Thursday on an ordinance to raise water rates a flat 2 per cent. This would be a stop-gap measure.

# '15' Backs Boost In Water Rate

**BULLETIN - 7-29-48**  
Approves 20 Pct. Rise But Criticizes Bureau

The proposal to raise city water rates 20 per cent drew qualified approval from the Committee of Fifteen and a move by several industries that may lead to outright opposition.

The committee yesterday passed a resolution approving the increase but indirectly criticizing the Water Bureau.

Representatives of firms that use large quantities of water met to form what they called a Committee of Industrial Water Users, and named Lindsay H. Mason, vice president of the Philadelphia Textile Manufacturers Association, as chairman.

## Concern Expressed

"This group," said Mason, "is very much concerned about the proposals to increase water and sewer rents and is opposed to any increases until and unless a thorough investigation shows conclusively the need for such increases."

The action of the Committee of Fifteen is not an official one but will be brought to the attention of City Council.

The resolution read: "While we recognize that the vast improvement in our water and sewage system requires the expenditure of many millions of dollars, and therefore makes it necessary to increase at this time the income from water, we as a committee believe that there is much room for improvement in the general efficiency of the water department.

## Will Continue Efforts

It was pointed out that there should be opportunities for the better collection of water rents.

"Our committee will therefore continue its efforts toward that end," the resolution said.

"In order that there may be no delay or interruption of the capital improvement program of the water system, we approve the proposed 20 per cent increase in water rents, provided the recommendations of the City Planning Commission with reference to a proper revision of the entire water rate structure be sincerely and vigorously prosecuted to a conclusion.

"We have instructed our staff to cooperate with the proper officials in the Water Bureau and the staff of the City Planning Commission to this end."

tional revenue. This measure becomes effective the first of next year.

Another ordinance, passed early this month, further revises the water rate structure by reducing quantities of water permitted under minimum charges by 50 per cent. As the result of a program developed in 1946, the city is working toward the improvement of the water works system at an estimated overall cost of \$62,568,000.

The Committee of Fifteen, in one of two reports submitted to it by the Bureau of Municipal Research, heard recommendations for a general reorganization of the Fire Marshal's Office, a section of the Department of Public Safety.

Also presented to the Committee was a series of recommendations calling for a rewriting of the existing zoning law and several major changes in the Zoning Board of adjustment.



## Realty Group, Large Users Fight Move

Over the opposition of one Councilman and a group of organizations and individuals, City Council's Finance Committee yesterday approved an ordinance authorizing a 20 percent increase in existing water rates, effective Jan. 1.

Assistant City Solicitor Herman N. Schwartz told the committee he doubted the 20 percent "across the board" increase would ever become effective, because a new water rate structure, now being prepared, in all probability would be adopted by Council before the end of the year.

### EXPLAINS NEW RATE

He explained the new rate schedule would, of course, increase rates sufficiently to continue the water system as a self-supporting project, but would remove inequities in existing rates, which have not been changed since 1916.

Answering opponents of the increase, who contended the 20 percent increase was not necessary if a new rate structure was to be adopted, Schwartz said the stop-gap legislation was needed to insure continuance of the water improvement program and the water system as a self-supporting project.

### INCREASE LIMITED

The ordinance, as approved, excluded the proposed increase on sewer rents for the time being and limits the 20 percent water rate boost during the calendar year of 1949, if it should become necessary.

City Council, at its regular session later in the day, approved a resolution directing Director of Public Works Thomas Buckley to cooperate with the Committee of Fifteen in preparation of a new rate structure and submit it to Council by Sept. 30.

The Committee of Fifteen's water expert, Nathan Jacobs, is now preparing a new rate schedule, with instructions to report back to the committee by Sept. 1.

### LOAN ACTION REFERRED

At the same session, an ordinance, introduced at the request of Mayor Bernard Samuel, authorizing a \$1,000,000 loan to continue the water improvement program was referred to the Finance Committee for action.

The original \$18,000,000 allocated for water improvements is nearly exhausted and the additional \$1,000,000 is needed to avoid a stoppage of the program.

Opponents of the 20 percent increase asserted the Finance Committee's action in voting the stop-gap legislation before enactment of the new rate structure was "putting the cart before the horse."

### MAXMAN OPPOSES PLAN

Councilman George Maxman, who opposed the bill, criticized introduction of the ordinance as "emergency" legislation, adding officials of the Department of Public Works "should have had full knowledge of the situation before this."

He said funds were needed chiefly for laying new water pipe and said he asked that the \$2 per foot assessed against abutting property owners for laying water pipes be increased to compensate the city for cost of installing the mains.

### DEFENDS PROPOSAL

If this were done, he insisted, there would be no need for emergency legislation. He disputed Councilman George D. Mansfield's comment that any increase in the water pipe assessment levy was "greedy, sectional and unbusinesslike."

Mansfield asserted that owners of new homes were forced to pay from \$8 to \$10 per foot for laying of water pipes, while property owners of old homes paid only \$2.

"Home owners," replied Maxman, "should be required to pay the cost of building their homes. The cost should not be put on everybody."

## \$200,000 a Year Lost on Water, Taylor Asserts

**Blames Faulty Meters  
And Thefts by Home  
Owners and Industry**

Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Bureau of Water, yesterday fixed at \$200,000 the city's annual loss from faulty water meters and cheating on the part of private and industrial property owners.

Taylor made this statement as investigators for the special (June) grand jury were running down leads that indicated numerous cases of chiseling on water rents.

The bureau chief said his men had uncovered enough information to turn it over to the special grand jury. Evidence linking a Water Bureau inspector with a conspiracy to cheat the city out of payments due from a large manufacturing plant is also being prepared for presentation to the grand jury.

"In a recent re-inspection of meters in both homes and industrial plants," said Taylor, "we have found that some meters apparently have been tampered with."

### Hundreds are Broken

Asked how many, he said he was sure of "six or so," but that there were hundreds of broken meters where it was impossible to tell immediately whether they were broken accidentally or not.

He pointed out that the city has only 21 district meter readers and about 75 inspectors who have to devote their attention to such matters as fire hydrants, and other equipment. Only ten of these men devote their time to inspection of homes and factories, he said.

The principal trouble has been infrequency of inspection he said. The city has no system for a periodic check.

In addition, the chief admitted that "there has been a laxness in

the supervision of meters, but nearly all of it has been caused by our inability to get new parts."

### Laxity in Inspection

It appeared that the Philadelphia approach to inspecting meters has been largely one of going around when called in to repair one, or making a call if there was evidence the meter was out of order and not recording properly.

Now Taylor is having a survey made to see how frequently inspections should be made. When the survey is completed he will ask Council to make provision for more adequate policing, he said.

Some effort already has been made to prevent cheating. In some instances unbreakable glass has been put in the face of the instruments. In others a lead base has been installed so that tampering will show up in the soft metal.

## Rise in Water, Sewer Rates Due

**INQUIRER-9/19/48**

By WILLIAM F. FEIST  
Legislation authorizing increases in both water and sewer rentals based on new rate structures now being considered by city officials in collaboration with the Committee of Fifteen will be introduced in City Council within a few weeks.

The amended water and sewer-rate structures not only will correct inequities in existing rentals, but provide the additional revenue required to maintain the sewer and water systems as self-supporting projects.

### COURT ACTION TO BE SOUGHT

Meanwhile, Council has approved a temporary 20 percent "across the board" water-rent increase, effective next Jan. 1. The stop-gap legislation was enacted to enable the city to borrow funds during the balance of this year to forestall a stoppage of the current water improvement program and insure the self-sufficiency of the water system.

It is considered unlikely the "across the board" increase will ever become effective, because enactment of the new sewer and water-rate structures is believed certain before the end of the current year.

Following enactment of permanent water and sewer-rate legislation, the City Solicitor's office will ask the courts to certify both systems as self-supporting projects.

It will be pointed out that revenue from increased rates will be sufficient to maintain and liquidate the indebtedness of both the water and sewer systems.

### JACOBS SUBMIT REPORT

Nathan B. Jacobs, water consulting engineer to both Director of Public Works Thomas Buckley and the Committee of Fifteen, already has submitted a preliminary report on a proposed new water-rate structure. He is expected to present final recommendations on water rents at a Committee of Fifteen meeting Friday.

The preliminary report contained two proposals, one setting forth rates based on water revenue of approximately \$9,000,000 annually, and a second geared to income of about \$10,000,000.

Under the first proposal, water consumers in unmetered properties would pay a straight 20 percent increase in water rents. It would affect about 232,000 consumers, whose water rents would jump from \$12.15 to \$14.60 annually.

### LARGE USERS AFFECTED

The metered group under the same proposal would receive only half of the water allowed under the \$8 minimum. But due to the fact that very few of these consumers, particularly householders, use more than 50 percent of the present minimum amount of water, actually there would be no increase in their rates.

The charge for water in excess of the minimum amount would, however, be increased from 40 cents to 50 cents per each 1000 cubic feet of water. Jacobs estimated this would mean about 25 percent increase in water rates of large users.

The second proposal, insuring income of \$10,000,000 annually, would jump rates for unmetered properties 25 percent, with proportionate boosts for metered consumers.

## Revised Water System Urged

**Bulletin**  
Real Estate Men Want

Economies in Bureau

A city water system operated with the same efficiency as other public utilities is urged by the Philadelphia Real Estate Board in a discussion of proposed new water rates.

The real estate group, one of several organizations to appear before the Committee of Fifteen during a public hearing on the proposal, also called yesterday for economies in the operation of the city bureau.

At the hearing in City Hall, John J. Stapleton, chairman of the board's committee on legislation and civic affairs, told the Committee of Fifteen that his group approved the basic theory of reducing the quantity of water covered by the minimum rates and uniform cost for excess water usage for all types of consumers.

### \$10 Minimum Proposed

"At the same time," he added, "we wish to point out that the adoption of any plan which calls for regular meter reading and the installation of more meters requires considerable improvement in the present methods in force. It is obvious that the service of meter reading, repair, billing and collection must be as efficient as is now practiced by the other public utilities."

The Chamber of Commerce, in addition to urging complete metering, suggested that some arrangement might be worked out to have the water devices read by inspectors for one of the other utilities. The chamber also recommended that a revision be made in the rates for unmetered users.

In their testimony, the Committee of Commercial-Industrial Water Users proposed that all domestic consumers be charged a minimum of \$10 a year. The present rate is \$8.

### Water Authority Asked

The group, composed of representatives of textile manufacturers, laundries, brewers, theaters, hotels and other businesses, also said that the change would bring in the \$9,300,000 a year to meet the Water Bureau's needs.

Lindsey H. Mason, vice president of the Philadelphia Textile Manufacturers Association and chairman of the organization, warned that several proposals made to the Committee of Fifteen ignore inequities among wholesale consumers.

"The city of Philadelphia," he said, "must do something to encourage and not penalize business already in Philadelphia to stay here and to induce others to come."

"Should there be considerations which make more efficient and economical operation of the Water Bureau impractical, we propose the establishment of an independent Water Commission or Authority."

## Water Increase To Get Hearing

**Bulletin**  
Proposed Boost to be

Aired Thursday

The proposal to raise the present water rates 20 per cent across the board until a new rate schedule is worked out, will be given a public airing Thursday.

City Council's Finance Committee has invited householders and businessmen to attend the meeting, at 10 A. M. in Council's chambers, to learn the reason for the rise.

The increase has two aims: to keep the water system self-supporting and to permit continuance of its rehabilitation by the floating of more bonds. The request for the rate rise was forwarded to Council by the Mayor, on advice of the City Planning Commission.

### System Self Supporting

At present, the water system is self supporting and therefore, unlike most other city activities, is not a charge against the debt limit fixed by statute, for improvements. But under the present trend the day is approaching when the water system will cost more than it takes in. Then, the debt limit will be passed and no further improvements will be possible.

If granted, the rise will enable the City Solicitor's office to go before the Common Pleas Court to prove the system is self supporting and that the water debt should continue to be "excluded" from the general debt. With court consent, the additional loans, at present estimated at \$20,000,000, can be floated next year and in 1950.

Officials admit that some inequities would result from the 20 per cent rise. These could be corrected in the permanent rate structure now in preparation. Nathan Jacobs, a consulting engineer, has been retained tentatively by the Committee of Fifteen to start the work. Other engineers will be added to the study.

### Sewer Increase Likely

If the water rise is granted, then a proportionate rise will come about in the sewer rents, too, since they are geared, on a rising scale, to water use.

Today, the margin between income and outgo in the water system is about \$100,000, which in a market of rising costs could be wiped out in a matter of weeks.

On the basis of receipts for 1947 (1948 receipts so far indicate the base will be about the same) the 20 per cent rise will net the city an additional \$1,370,000, bringing the average yearly income to \$9,000,000. This, proponents of the increase say, would not only keep the system financially sound, but allow for the floating of the additional \$20,000,000, with the resulting interest charges.

## Test Term Urged On Water Boost

**INQUIRER 8-18-48**

City Council's proposal to increase water rentals by 20 percent will prove acceptable to commercial and industrial firms here only on a temporary basis, a spokesman for the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce declared yesterday.

J. Harry LaBrum, chairman of the Chamber's water-pollution committee, said in a prepared statement that if a "temporary clause" is inserted in the water rental ordinance now pending before Council, business generally would give its approval.

### SMALL CONSUMERS BENEFIT

While he did not say so, LaBrum's statement appeared to be prompted by disclosures made last week that the proposed ordinance, as now drawn, would impose the heaviest burden of increase on the larger firms in the city, while many smaller consumers would escape any boost in rentals.

The Chamber's position toward an increase was reported yesterday to have been accepted by City Hall officials, and approval of the new water rates by City Council—on a purely temporary basis—appeared certain.

As for changing the base for computing water rentals, a move which also is proposed in the pending bill, the Chamber feels that this should be deferred temporarily, LaBrum said. He will present the Chamber's views at a public hearing in City Hall on Thursday, Aug. 19, preparatory to presenting the ordinance to the full City Council for action Aug. 26.

### YEAR'S TRIAL URGED

"Without some relief of the present situation," LaBrum said, "the financial condition of the Water Bureau might be seriously jeopardized." He will suggest, he said, that the rent increase become effective Jan. 1, 1949, and that the ordinance authorizing it shall expire Dec. 31, 1949.

Meanwhile, in the one-year period, Director of Public Works Thomas Buckley would submit to City Council a draft of a "new and fairer ordinance." This ordinance probably would provide for a sliding scale of increases instead of an across-the-board increase, as provided in the pending ordinance.

## Headline Hopping

## New Tune: Going to Take The Kill Out of Schuylkill

By Ollie Crawford

OVERBROOK and some sections of West and Southwest Philadelphia are to get a new and pure water supply by Christmas. This is putting Santa on the water wagon. Residents will be hanging up their hose, instead of their stockings.

The new water is hailed as odorless and tasteless. How do you know the stuff is there? It's going to be hard to explain to the children. When Junior cries for a drink at night, he wants to hear it rattle. Grandpa wants something he can sink his teeth into.

This means the end of the "Schuylkill Cocktail." That was the drink they sold only one of to a Zombie.

Schuylkill is an old Dutch word, meaning "Creek with a Reek." It's the world's only dusty river. Indians who lived there were led by "Chief Running Away From Water." It was a branch of the Blackfoot tribe. But some people liked it. Pure sediment.

The old water was good to the last drop. But that last drop. Wow!

Overbrook used to be the only place where people drank water with a whisky chaser. Even the faucets turned up their noses and when people watered the lawn, the grass put up umbrellas.

It was kind of a liquor smog. When you asked for a drink of water, they said: "How many lumps, please?" One circus visitor asked: "How does this water come? Through an elephant's trunk?"

Schuylkill's water once stumped the experts on "20 questions." They couldn't even guess whether it was animal, vegetable or mineral.

## Water Easy to Take

**BULLETIN 11-25-48**

Two years ago the city decided that at least for the present it would not go to the mountains for its water, but would see what could be accomplished by additional treatment of water from the existing Delaware and Schuylkill sources.

This water, as delivered to consumers, was known to be safe, but it often carried objectionable tastes and odors.

Now a million-dollar "ozone" plant, believed to be the largest in the world, is on the point of going into operation on the water filtered at the Belmont station. If predictions of the engineers are borne out, the Overbrook section will soon have water easy to take under all conditions at all times of the year.

Later, other sections will benefit from the new process, which had been tested for two years on a small scale before it was authorized on a large scale.

There will doubtless continue to be people who will object to water that has had to be doctored for safety, taste and odors. They would prefer water that has never been impure.

But there is probably no water anywhere that has not at some time gone through the purifying processes of nature and the engineers. The two processes are of course essentially the same, except that the engineers can usually do the job faster.

The city may have to go to distant sources some day for more water. There is ground for hope that problems of quality can be solved in less expensive ways.



# Private Control Of City Water System Urged

BULLETIN 11-24-48  
Report to '15' Suggests  
Lease or Turning It  
Over to an Authority

The city should give up operating Philadelphia's water system, an exhaustive engineering report to the Committee of Fifteen said today.

It should turn the system over to a private enterprise under lease, an arrangement like that under which the city-owned gas works is now operated by the Philadelphia Gas Works Co., the report continued.

Or, failing that, the water system should be placed under the authority type of management, an example of which is the Delaware River Bridge's administration by the Delaware River Joint Commission.

The report listed a long series of suggested water system improvements, concluding:

"Many of the recommendations could also be carried out under the present (city) operation, but experience indicates that this is not likely."

The report is the findings of a

Continued on Page 18, Col. 2

## Dubious Water Proposal

Philadelphians will want to look long and hard at any proposal to turn the city water-works over to private operation or a public "authority."

The suggestion is based on the view that certain unsatisfactory aspects of city operation cannot otherwise be cured. That may be a groundless assumption. Nor should it be overlooked that the alternatives proposed would have their own special disadvantages.

This recommendation is akin to many others that have recently been heard. There has been a rash of proposals that problems of city government be solved by taking them off the desks of the city officials who are elected and appointed to deal with them.

More emphasis might well be placed on toning up the city management and administration. A lot of current thinking leads toward public officials paid for doing nothing and public business several steps further removed from public control.

For operation of the water system by a private corporation, the city, or more accurately, the water consumers, would have to pay a substantial management fee in addition to all salaries and other expenses. Perhaps one remedy for present ills would be for the City to pay salaries more nearly comparable with what a private corporation would surely pay. The salary of the Chief of the Water Bureau is carried in the Mayor's 1949 budget at \$9,700.

# Private Control of City Water System Urged

BULLETIN 11-24-48  
Continued from First Page

survey made for the "Fifteen" by Charles Haydock, a consultant engineer. He started work on it last August. His report was presented to the committee today in the presence of Elbert J. Taylor, Water Bureau chief, and other city officials.

Haydock said the most practical of the two alternatives to city operation "would be to lease the water works, so as to combine the advantages of private operation and public operation, as has been so successful with the city gas works."

## Turnpike Cited

Conveyance of the water system to an authority, he said, could be done under the Pennsylvania Municipality Act. In addition to operation of the bridge by an authority he cited the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and the Port of New York Authority as other successful administrations of this type.

Either method, Haydock noted, would "completely separate the proprietary water works function from the city governmental functions and materially change the form of administration of the water works system."

Under the lease or authority operation, all functions, from pumping and purification to the collection of bills, could be centralized in one agency. At present the Water Bureau itself has no control of collections and only recently was granted supervision over the meter inspectors.

Haydock delved into the historical background of the city to

show that it was one of the first in the country to have a complete system of water supply. He cited, too, the numerous commissions which have been formed to investigate possible new water sources.

## Four Failings Cited

In general, he found four principal failings in the present operation.

1. Insufficient maintenance made acute by wartime shortages of labor and materials. This condition, he reported, was noted as early as 1920, and has been accentuated since then by providing insufficient funds and in using the water works as a revenue producer for the rest of the municipal government during depression years.

2. Intermingling of water revenues with those of other city agencies. This, Haydock found, made it difficult to operate the water system on a business basis by reason of divided responsibilities and lack of a proper accounting system.

3. Inadequate personnel, some unqualified and others physically unable to properly perform their duties. In this connection, Haydock noted that 30 per cent of the 1,031 employees are 60 years of age and over, and called for a revision of the bureau's employment policy.

4. The large number of unmetered homes and other consumers and the inadequate meter program. Fully one-half of the 475,000 users, he said, are without the devices, which he described as the cash registers of the system.

## Recommendations Made

To offset these conditions, the report urged expenditures of sufficient funds to maintain and operate the system; separation of the bureau from the rest of the city government; complete control of all meters and their installation and control, and an employment policy to bring about a "balanced age group."

It was to carry through on these recommendations that Haydock urged the leasing or authority management of the system. Throughout his report he reminded the Committee of Fifteen that the Water Bureau is a "big business" with \$7,500,000 revenues annually.

Upon recommendation of the Committee of Fifteen, City Council authorized a 20 per cent increase in water rents to bring in an estimated \$5,000,000 annually in additional revenue. This measure becomes effective the first of next year.

Another ordinance, passed early this month, further revises the water rate structure by reducing quantities of water permitted under minimum charges by 50 per cent. As the result of a program developed in 1946, the city is working toward the improvement of the

water works system at an estimated overall cost of \$62,568,000.

## Another Report Heard

The Committee of Fifteen, in one of two reports submitted to it by the Bureau of Municipal Research, heard recommendations for a general reorganization of the Fire Marshal's office, a section of the Department of Public Safety. The Special Grand Jury has reported that it found indications of graft in its probe of this office but gave no specific information.

This report was based on a survey made by Worden and Risberg, management consultants, and pointed out that the city at present has no actual fire code to guide its officers. The result has been, it stated, constant confusion between the Fire Marshal's office and the building inspectors.

Forty firemen now assigned to the office, it suggested, should be returned to active duty with fire companies and replaced by a lesser number of civilians. All personnel, in addition, should be required to have a fire prevention engineering background.

## Plan Would Divide Duties

It recommended that the licensing and inspection of domestic oil burners be transferred to the Department of Public Health, as well as routine inspections of buildings for fire hazards. Each fire company would then make inspections in their own area, as well as investigate complaints of possible fire hazards.

As the result of these changes, the report declared, the Fire Marshal's office would confine itself to uncovering evidence of fires of suspicious origin, while the police force would be called on to track down the person guilty. This, it was pointed out, would give the office more time for fire prevention work.

Also presented to the Committee was a series of recommendations calling for a rewriting of the existing zoning law and several major changes in the Zoning Board of Adjustment. These suggestions, too, came in a report drafted for the "Fifteen" by Worden and Risberg.

It asked that a five-man board be set up to direct the rewriting of the zoning laws and maps to correct what it termed "widespread deficiencies." It would be made up of a member each from the City Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Zoning Division, and two members taken from the "general public."

## Would Change Zoning Board

Existing regulations, the report stated, are not part of an overall plan for the development of the city and permit "spotty" commercial and industrial sites. They also make no requirements for sufficient off-street parking or for off-street loading and unloading zones.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment, it suggested, should be made up principally of private citizens. At present four of the five members are city officials.

The weekly hearing of the group should be held in a courtroom, to provide greater space, and the cases themselves should be more widely advertised, it said. A recommendation was also made that the group be given a \$9,000 grant by City Council for inspection of properties involved in their actions.

Laurence Costello, director of the Department of City Transit, appeared before the Committee at its proceedings today to dispute recommendations that his department should be merged with Public Works. His unit, he pointed out, is in the midst of a \$38,000,000 program which would be entirely "foreign" to any other department.

He also told the Committee that the only possible use of the unused Locust Street Subway would be to equip it for its original purpose. The Arch st. tube, he said, should

# U.S. Withholds Approval Of City Water Supply

The United States Public Health Service, it was learned today, has withheld its formal approval of Philadelphia's water supply since the beginning of October.

City officials, however, hastened to explain that it isn't as bad as it might seem.

The Government, said Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Water Bureau, has held off until Philadelphia supplies them with a list of the planned improvements to the system and details of the financing. They are concerned, he said, about the pumping and filtering capacity and not with the quality of the water itself.

"The water is well above their standards," Taylor continued, "and we have their verbal approval until we furnish them with the details they have asked."

be "filled in with the next highway repaving."

The 400-foot stretch of subway beneath Arch st. was constructed 30 years ago. It was abandoned when the city dropped plans for a proposed central-city delivery loop.

# Buckley Asserts Taste of Water Has Improved

BULLETIN 10/9/48  
Says It's Noticeable,  
Will Be Nearly Perfect  
In Four More Years

How does your city water taste? Any better lately?

Thomas Buckley, city director of public works, said yesterday that the improvement is noticeable in most neighborhoods.

In another four years, he said, the water should be well-nigh perfect.

The Chamber of Commerce, eyeing the proposed increase in water rents of 17 to 25 per cent, said in effect that it had better be.

"If Philadelphia industry and Philadelphia residents must pay more for their water," Clement V. Conole, general manager of the Chamber, said, "they are entitled to better quality."

The Chamber's position is, he said, that the city should be given a chance to show that its water-works improvement program will eliminate disagreeable tastes and odors.

## Alternate Intake

If that fails, says the Chamber, then the city should go somewhere beside the lower Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers for its supply. The Chamber's choice would be an intake on the Delaware near Trenton.

To this, Buckley replied that better water is the object of higher water rates. The new rates, if adopted by Council (whose public utility committee now has the ordinance), would enable the city to borrow \$30,000,000 more for water works, he said.

An \$18,000,000 loan authorized in 1940 is nearly exhausted, Buckley said. So is the city's general debt limit. Higher rates will enable loans to be made against Water Bureau revenues, outside the debt limit.

The 17-25 per cent plan was prepared by the Committee of Fifteen to replace the straight 20 per cent increase enacted to go into effect the first of the year.

Results from the expenditures of some of the \$18,000,000 are beginning to show at the water tap, Buckley said.

## Finds Improvement

"I think you'll find that in most neighborhoods there is an improvement," he said. "That improvement is going on. Every few months, you can almost say we have fixed a new standard of quality."

The results, he explained, have been slow in appearing because of three factors: (1) wartime shut-down on construction and postwar scarcities in materials; (2) skyrocketing construction costs, and (3) the necessity of extending water facilities into newly-developed residential areas, on an unexpected scale.

It would take \$38,000,000 or \$40,000,000 today to accomplish what \$18,000,000 would have accomplished in 1940, Buckley estimated. In addition, residential expansion has taken about 15 per cent of the original loan.

Nevertheless, Buckley said that the waterworks improvements undertaken under the original loan are three-fourths completed—which does not mean that three-fourths of the facilities are in operation.

# Lease of Water Works Urged By '15' for Private Operation

BULLETIN 11/25/48  
Lease of the city-owned water system for operation by private enterprise was recommended for greater operating efficiency in an engineering report to the Committee of Fifteen yesterday.

The city should cease operation of the system and turn it over to private operation under a system similar to the plan under which the Philadelphia Gas Works Co. runs the city-owned gas works, the report continued.

An alternate suggestion of the exhaustive study was that the system be placed under an authority type of management such as the operation of the Delaware River Bridge by the Delaware River Joint Commission.

The report listed a long series of suggested water system improvements, concluding:

"Many of the recommendations could also be carried out under the present (city) operation, but unlikely."

The report is the findings of a survey made for the "Fifteen" by Charles Haydock, a consultant engineer. He started work on it last August. His report was presented to the committee yesterday in the presence of Elbert J. Taylor, Water Bureau chief, and other city officials.

Haydock said the most practical of the two alternatives to city operation "would be to lease the water works, so as to combine the advantages of private operation and public operation, as has been so successful with the city gas works."

## Turnpike Cited

Conveyance of the water system to an authority, he said, could be done under the Pennsylvania Municipality Act. In addition to operation of the bridge by an authority he cited the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and the Port of New York Authority as other successful administrations of this type.

Either method, Haydock noted, would "completely separate the proprietary water works function from the city governmental functions and materially change the form of administration of the water works system."

Under the lease or authority operation, all functions, from pumping and purification to the collection of bills, could be centralized in one agency. At present the Water Bureau itself has no control of collections and only recently was granted supervision of the meter inspectors.

## Four Failings Cited

In general, Haydock found four principal failings in the present operation.

1. Insufficient maintenance made acute by wartime shortages of labor and materials. This condition, he reported, was noted as early as 1920, and has been accentuated since then by providing insufficient funds and in using the water works as a revenue producer for the rest of the municipal government during depression years.

2. Intermingling of water revenues with those of other city agencies. This, Haydock found, made it difficult to operate the water system on "a business basis by reason of divided responsibilities and lack of a proper accounting system."

3. Inadequate personnel, some unqualified and others physically unable to properly perform their duties. In this connection, Haydock noted that 30 per cent of the 1,031 employees are 60 years of age and over, and called for a revision of the bureau's employment policy.

4. The large number of unmetered homes and other consumers and the inadequate meter program. Fully one-half of the 475,000 users, he said, are without the devices, which he described as the cash registers of the system.

## Recommendations Made

To offset these conditions, the report urged expenditures of sufficient funds to maintain and operate the system; separation of the bureau from the rest of the city government; complete control of all meters and their installation and control, and an employment policy to bring about a "balanced age group."

Upon recommendation of the Committee of Fifteen, City Council authorized a 20 per cent increase in water rents to bring in an estimated \$5,000,000 annually in addi-

# Private Control Of Water Urged In Report to '15'

INQUIRER 11-25-48

Non-city control of Philadelphia's water system, through leasing it to private enterprise or placing it under an authority type of management, was proposed yesterday in a report to the Committee of Fifteen.

At the same time, the committee received a number of other reports, including one regarding future sources of city revenue in which the suggestion was made that assessments be based on a minimum of 70 percent of the sale value of properties.

## ENGINEER MAKES REPORT

Charles Haydock, a consulting engineer, made the Water Bureau study report. It contained the results of three months of extensive research. He pointed out that many of the recommendations contained in it could be carried out under the present operation "but experience indicates that this is not likely."

The lease arrangement could be similar to the city-owned gas works, now operated by the Philadelphia Gas Works Co. An authority could be similar to the administration of the Delaware River Bridge by the Delaware River Joint Commission, it was pointed out.

Under either, all functions of the Water Bureau, from pumping and purification to the collection of bills, could be carried out by one agency. Both methods, it was added, auto-

Continued on Page 2, Column 6



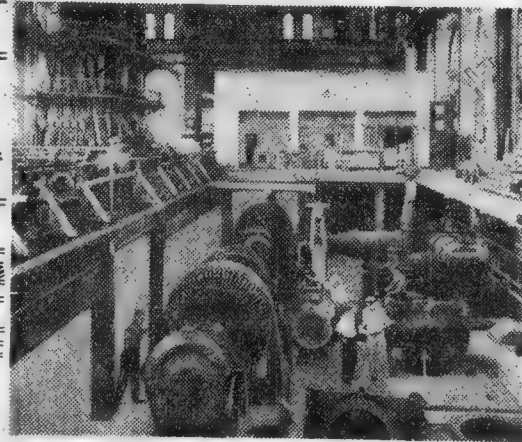
# Highlights of City's Water And Sewage Programs

WEST OAK LANE  
LA MOTT  
MELROSE PARK  
OAKLANE  
FERN ROCK  
LOGAN  
NICTOWN  
EAST FALLS  
BALA  
WINNEFIELD  
WEST PHILADELPHIA



Interior of New Belmont Ozonation Building

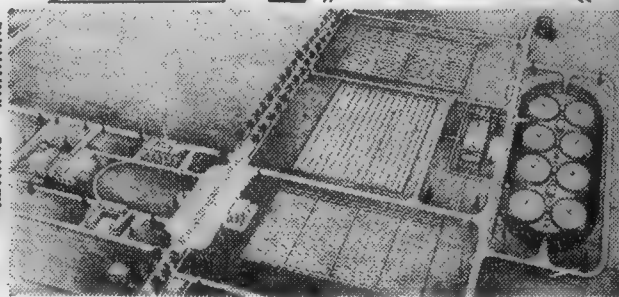
New Torresdale Filter Plant Main Building



Modernization of Lardner's Point Station



New East Park Chlorine House

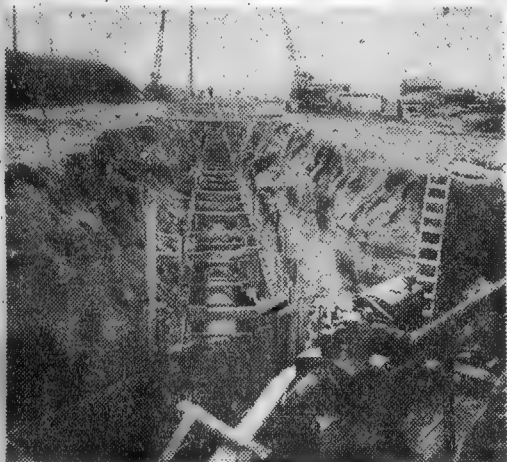
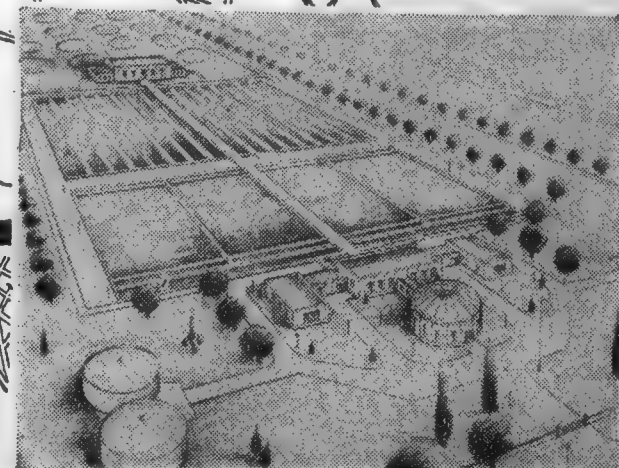


DELAWARE RIVER BRIDGE

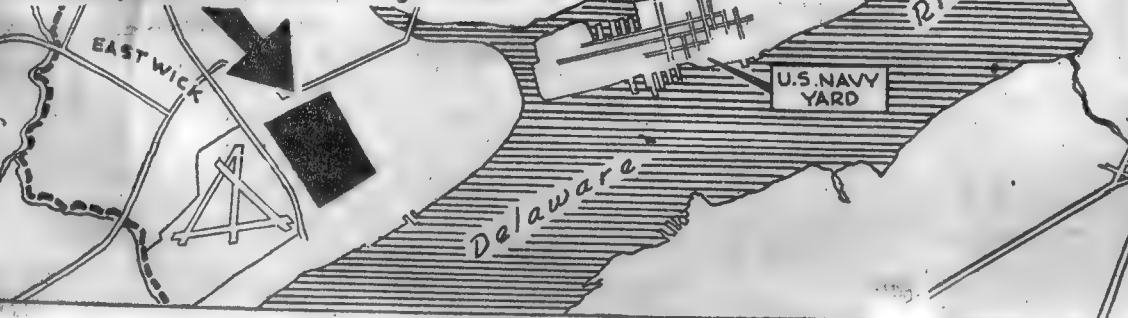
Plan of Northeast Sewage Treatment Works



Plan of Southeast Sewage Treatment Works



Preliminary Work Southwest Sewage Works



## Private Control of Water Is Urged in Report to '15

Continued From First Page

matically would separate the "proprietary water works functions from the governmental functions of the city.

Haydock's report included a study of the history of the system. He outlined four principal failings under the present setup.

These included insufficient maintenance made acute by wartime labor and material shortages; intermingling of water revenues with those from other city income sources; inadequate personnel and an inadequate meter program.

Suggestions to offset these factors urged the spending of sufficient funds to fully maintain and operate the system, separation of the bureau from the rest of the city government, establishment of an employment policy to provide for a "balanced age group" setup and complete control of all meters.

Haydock reminded members of the committee that the water system is "big business" with \$7,500,000 revenues each year. He said outside operation of it would have the advantage of being completely independent of the general credit and constitutional debt limit of the city as well as being self-supporting.

In presenting the report, Haydock explained that the city's system would not compare very favorably with privately-owned systems if a comparison was now made. He made the remark in response to a question by Arthur W. Binns, committee chairman.

The revenue report was made by Leonard A. Drake, an economist on loan to the committee from the Chamber of Commerce. He warned that the city faced real financial problems by 1950 and that a deficit was likely next year.

But, in regard to the latter, he pointed out, that non-recurring surplus and merging balances would provide about \$3,500,000 to offset the excess of cash outgo over income.

In 1950, Drake explained, no such monies will be on hand. Therefore, it is probable that the city will be in need of between \$5,000,000 and

\$10,000,000 in new revenues, he added.

Granting continued bad times would mean a likely boost in the return from the city wage tax, Drake stressed the assessment question and emphasized that the current trend was not keeping pace with inflation.

Applying the suggested 70 percent rate, to assessments would provide additional income of \$7,000,000 annually, he said. This would mean a boost of 14 percent in the tax yield from real estate and a 6 percent rise in over-all city revenue.

Even if the suggestion was carried out, according to Drake, real estate would still contribute considerably less than half of the city's income. The plan would improve the city's borrowing capacity and also aid the school district.

### COUNCIL GETS REPORTS

Copies of the report were sent to the Board of Revision of Taxes and to City Council.

Two reports were submitted by the Bureau of Municipal Research. They called for a general reorganization of the Fire Marshal's office and for rewriting the existing zoning law and changes in the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

One report recommended enactment of a fire prevention code, an ordinance transferring the inspection of newly installed domestic oil burners to the Bureau of Building Inspection and licensing of installers of such burners by the Division of Housing and Sanitation.

### PRIVATE CITIZENS URGED

The zoning laws and maps should be revised by a five-man board, the second report suggested. Such action would correct, what the report called "widespread deficiencies."

The Zoning Board of Adjustment, the report urged, should consist principally of private citizens. Four of the five present members are city officials.

Laurence Costello, Director of City Transit, also appeared before the committee. He disputed previous recommendations that his department be merged with the Department of Public Works and pointed out that his unit is in the midst of a \$38,000,000 program entirely "foreign" to any other department.

## Mayor Urges Independent Water Board

Bulletin 1-9-48  
Would Have It Manage And Develop City's \$100,000,000 System

Mayor Samuel proposed yesterday that the City solve its water problems by turning the water system over to an independent body of experts.

He will recommend to the state legislature, he said, the establishment of a Philadelphia Water Authority which would assume full responsibility for the management, control and development of the City's \$100,000,000 water works.

The City, the mayor's announcement indicated, would not permanently transfer to the new authority the ownership of the system, but only the headaches that go with it. The authority, under the Samuel plan, would run the water works, correct all existing evils, develop new sources of supply as needed and pay the City an annual rental to protect its investment in the existing plant.

"Supplying water to the 500,000 homes of the people of Philadelphia and to our many manufacturing, industrial and mercantile establishments," Samuel said, "is a tremendous undertaking requiring the application of modern business practices."

## Neglect Caused Poor Water, WFIL Forum Speakers Say

Philadelphia is now "reaping the reward of 20 or 30 years of neglect" of its water supply plant with water of bad taste and odor, city experts declared yesterday.

The question "What Progress Are We Making Toward Improving Philadelphia's Water Supply?" was discussed yesterday on the Public Hearing Program over Station WFIL.

Speakers included Robert K. Sawyer, director of the Bureau of Municipal Research; Charles Haydock, consulting engineer and author of a report on the water supply for the Committee of 15; and Elbert Taylor, chief of the Bureau of Water of the Department of Public Works.

All agreed that the solution was not an upland source but improvement of the present plant here. They also agreed that the principal problem was the matter of taste and odor and corrosion, or "red water." They suggested a separate water department to prevent further "draining off" of water revenue for other city expenditures.

Sawyer reported that purity and reliability of supply were no longer serious problems. However, he and Taylor disagreed on the amount of progress made on taste and odor control.

"When the present program was

launched in 1946," Sawyer said, "it didn't cover taste and odor control and it is not sufficiently cared for now. We should have adequate equipment to care for the occasional 'dumpings' in the river such as we had last winter. This problem must be solved hastily so we can focus attention on modernizing our plant."

### DELAY IS ASSAILED

Taylor said "considerable work" was being done on taste and odor control but "much experimentation was necessary."

Sawyer countered that many of these were proven methods and there had been too much delay. He added that the money granted for the water supply project in 1946 had been used "to make up rather than increase facilities and the city is now reaping the reward of 20 or 30 years of neglect."



# Mayor Urge New Water Control Plan

INQUIRER 1-9-49

Will Ask Legislature  
To Vote Authority  
To Take Over System

Establishment of a Philadelphia Water Authority to take over control and development of the municipal water system will be recommended to the current session of the State Legislature, Mayor Bernard Samuel announced yesterday.

In announcing the far-reaching proposal, Samuel explained that under the plan the city would not lose ownership of the water system, but that the authority would have the responsibility of seeing to it that an adequate supply of pure water is made available to the residents of Philadelphia.

## CHANGE UP TO PEOPLE

Nor does the plan necessarily mean, the Mayor added, that the city will abandon the present source of water in favor of an upland source. Before any change is made, he said, the people of Philadelphia will be given an opportunity to express their preference.

"Supplying water to the 500,000 homes of the people of Philadelphia and to our many manufacturing, industrial and mercantile establishments is a tremendous undertaking requiring the application of modern business practice," the Mayor asserted.

## HEARINGS TO BE HELD

"It is a big business enterprise and can be administered best by management specializing in the operation of this vital and all-important public utility."

Public hearings will be held on the plan after the legislation is introduced in the Legislature and in the event of approval both by the Assembly and the Governor, a supplementary ordinance will be introduced in City Council, where the people will have another chance to express their views on the proposal.

## 2 PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS

After stating that the two principal problems in connection with the water supply involve the sufficiency of supply, keeping in mind the future needs of the city, and the quality of supply, in relation to purity, softness, odor, taste and other characteristics, the Mayor declared:

"The project is a monumental one. It involves difficult problems of engineering and financing. Subject to these problems being met, it can be done by the city directly or by the city through the agency of an authority."

"It would seem preferable to have

the work done by an authority rather than the city. An authority, which would concentrate on the one activity and would not be subject to the many limitations now imposed on the municipality, would be more able to secure the technical staff and to proceed with the work."

"An authority of selected members, assisted by a qualified technical staff," he continued, "will give reasonable assurance of management that will compare with the best qualities of private ownership, but at the same time will protect the public in that the improved property will be held for its benefit and that title to the system, as improved, will ultimately revert to the city."

"If it is determined to proceed with the project and to perform the work through an authority, transferring the present facilities to that authority, the agreement with the authority must provide for annual rental to the city sufficient to pay the

charges on the existing water debt so that it can be maintained as excluded debt."

The Mayor explained the city's investment in the water system exceeds \$100,000,000 including the expenditure of \$18,000,000 since 1940. The disbursement of another \$20,000,000 within the next four years is planned.

All of the existing water debt is now excluded as a lien against the city's borrowing power and the courts soon will be asked to exclude the contemplated expenditure of the additional \$20,000,000 from the debt calculation.

Turning to the possibility of an upland source of water, the Mayor asserted:

"In the event an upland source of supply would be recommended by the authority, such a project, I am convinced, would include many possibilities favorable to the city of Philadelphia."

## REVENUE POSSIBILITIES

"After the development of the project, it would be possible, I believe, for the authority to sell water to communities abutting or within reasonable distance of the route of supply to our city, as well as procuring additional revenue from the sale of power along the same route."

The Mayor reviewed the recommendations of many water commissions over the years. He specifically mentioned the Philadelphia Water Commission appointed by him in 1945 with a two-fold assignment to study the question of an improved water supply and a possible new source of supply.

## COMMENTS ON REPORT

Commenting on the commission's final report, he said:

"The commission considered two propositions: one, an upland source of supply and, second, improvement of present sources."

"Regardless of any decision in the future to procure our water supply from upland sources, it was imperative to make certain improvements in existing facilities within the city."

"These improvements have been under way since Federal restrictions on necessary and vital materials were lifted in 1946 and are continuing. These improvements would have been in order even if the city decided to go up-State for its water supply in 1946."

## PLANS FOR FUTURE

"The \$18,000,000 spent in the 1940-48 period and the \$20,000,000 proposed to be spent in the 1949-52 period have for their purpose the extension and improvement of the facilities and the improvement of the quality of water."

"Although the quality has been improved to some extent, it has not reached the desired standard and, in addition, there are periods during which the quality of the water in taste and odor becomes objectionable, due to contamination of the water sources."

He pointed out completion of the sewage disposal plants and eliminations of mine and industrial wastes from the Schuylkill and the Delaware River will improve the quality of the water.

"The future demands of the Philadelphia area, however, may not be adequately met from that portion of the present sources to which it may be entitled under the principle of allocation now in effect," continued Samuel.

"The solution of these problems may lie in the establishment of an up-State source which will assure

to the city the quantity and quality of water required by it; the transmission of this water to the city and its distribution to the users by utilization of the existing facilities, as improved and modernized."

"For the purpose of extending, rehabilitating and improving the water system of Philadelphia, contracts for work costing \$4,250,000 were awarded during 1948 by the Department of Public Works. These will provide for the completion of the new Torresdale pumping station, the ozonation plant at Belmont filters and many distribution mains."

"As far as the rehabilitation of the local source of supply is concerned," concluded the Mayor, "our plans include additional projects for existing pumping stations and filtration plants toward further improvement of quantity and quality of water. Provision is made for extension of the distribution system to keep pace with new building and for booster pumping stations to supply outlying areas."

He repeated that his sole interest in the water problem is to furnish an adequate supply of pure water for every Philadelphian.

# Bureau Bungling Is Blamed for City's Bad Water

BULLETIN - 1-9-49

Improvements Started  
In 1946 Not Completed,  
Researchers Charge

By JOHN G. McCULLOUGH  
Of The Bulletin Staff

The nauseous taste and odor of Philadelphia water was blamed yesterday on the City's bungling of its water system improvement program.

The Bureau of Municipal Research, in its weekly bulletin on municipal affairs, pointed out that the program, authorized in 1946, was to be completed in 15 months. Although more than \$10,000,000 immediately was made available, the agency declared, the work is still far from finished.

"Recent experience with bad-tasting and evil-smelling water," the bureau said, "has overtaxed the patience of Philadelphians. They expect and should have good water every day. Technical explanations of the cause are not enough, particularly when the cure is at hand."

The City undertook to carry out the improvement program to avoid, if possible, the need for undertaking the highly expensive work of bringing water from the Poconos.

## 'Hue and Cry Rising'

"It is little wonder," the bureau said, "that the hue and cry for an upland source of water is rising again. People care little that they could have equally high-quality water from the present sources for a fraction of the cost, if they aren't getting it."

"It was the taste and odor problem that brought the City close to a decision in 1946 to spend \$315,000,000 for an upland water supply."

The bureau stated flatly that Philadelphians would not have been "plagued" with the phenol and tar tastes during the last three weeks if the taste and odor program had been completed as scheduled. The program was worked out by City Council and a special water commission after months of public hearings and field investigation.

"It is a big business enterprise and can be administered best by management specializing in the operation of this vital and all-important public utility."

## '15' Suggested It

The Committee of Fifteen, in the course of its researches last year, reached the conclusion that the water system was too tremendous an enterprise for the City to handle and recommended that the job be turned over, under lease, to private enterprise.

Failing that, committee experts suggested, the job should be given to an authority modeled on the Delaware River Joint Commission.

Samuel's decision to foster the authority plan is the result not of the Fifteen recommendation, he said, but of many months of his own study of the problem.

Creation of the authority would not necessarily mean that the City would abandon present water sources and turn to development of an upland supply, at least not right away. In fact, Samuel indicated, nothing at all would happen right away.

"Following the introduction of legislation at Harrisburg providing for establishment of an authority," he said, "public hearings would

Continued on Page 2, Col. 2

It included the \$1,000,000 ozonation treatment plant still under construction at the Belmont Filter Plant, chlorine ammonia treatment at the Queen Lane plant and the use of activated carbon treatment at all of the City's filter stations. Up to the present time, chlorine has been the mainstay of treatment methods.

It was planned to observe the results of the two methods in use at Belmont and Queen Lane and then to extend the better procedure to the other filtration plants.

## 30 Months and No Action

"Thirty months have gone by and the ozonation plant is still not in operation," the bureau pointed out. "Moreover, the chief of the Water Bureau is now talking about at least a year's experience with ozone before extending its use."

Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Water Bureau, last week disclosed that he would insist on the long trial period for the ozone process. The Bureau of Municipal Research, however, said this was counter to the results of many months of tests which "clearly show that the bad taste producers can be eliminated by ozonation."

As an example of what it called the City's "bungling" the bureau listed the steps taken for construction of the Belmont ozonation plant. It said they indicated "why the city was caught unprepared to handle a major taste and odor problem 30 months after it launched a program for taste and odor control."

At the time the whole installation was supposed to be completed, the bureau reported, bids were just being taken for the contact chambers, a major part of the job. Transformers, known to be in short supply, were ordered nine months after the job was authorized, it stated, but the ozone equipment, on the other hand, was available and waiting to be installed for over a year.

# Mayor to Propose Philadelphia Water Authority

Continued from First Page

be held at which all interested parties could be heard.

"In the event of favorable action by the Legislature and approval by the governor, supplementary legislation would be introduced in the Philadelphia City Council where again public hearings would be held to procure the views of our taxpayers on the subject."

"If an upland source of supply should be recommended by the authority, such a project, I am convinced, would include many possibilities favorable to the City."

One such possibility, he said, lay in the fact that if the City had plenty of good water the authority could procure additional revenue by selling some of it to other communities.

Samuel reviewed some of the water problems which he hopes may some day be turned over to the new authority. Looking back on his own handling of those problems, he commented that "regardless of any decision in the future to procure water from upland sources, it was imperative to make certain improvements in existing facilities."

## Results Not Encouraging

The City spent \$18,000,000 on those improvements between 1940 and 1948, Samuel noted, and plans to spend \$20,000,000 more in the next four years, but so far the results have not been encouraging.

"Although the quality of water has been improved to some extent, it has not reached the desired standard, and, in addition, there are periods during which the quality of water in taste and odor becomes objectionable, due to contamination of the water sources."

What is needed, he said, is maximum purification of existing sources and the development of new ones, possibly from an upland source, so that the City in the future may be assured not only of pure water but plenty of it.

"The project," he said, "is a monumental one."

"It would seem preferable to have the work done by an authority, rather than the City. An au-

thority, which would concentrate on the one activity and would not be subject to the many limitations now imposed on the municipality, would be more able to secure the technical staff and to proceed with the work."

## Title Will Revert

"An authority of selected members, assisted by a qualified technical staff, will give reasonable assurance of management that will compare with the best qualities of private ownership, but at the same time will protect the public in that the improved property will be held for its benefit and that title to the system, as improved, will ultimately revert to the City."

"If it is determined to proceed with the project and to perform the work through an authority, transferring the present facilities to that authority, the agreement with the authority must provide for annual rental to the City sufficient to pay the charges on the existing water debt so that it can be maintained as excluded debt."

"For the purpose of extending, rehabilitating and improving the water system of Philadelphia, contracts for work costing \$4,250,000 were awarded during 1948 by the Department of Public Works. These will provide for the completion of the new Torresdale pumping station, the ozonation plant at Belmont filters and many distribution mains."

"As far as the rehabilitation of the local source of supply is concerned, our plans include additional projects for existing pumping stations and filtration plants toward further improvement of quantity and quality of water. Provision is made for the extension of the distribution system to keep pace with new building and for booster pumping stations to supply outlying areas."

"There is now outstanding debt in the amount of \$36,290,000, the proceeds of which are invested in the water system. There is authorized and awaiting issue a recent loan of \$1,000,000 for investment in the system. It is proposed to authorize an additional \$19,000,000, the proceeds to be used during

the next three years in the further improvement and extension of the system.

## 2,620 Miles of Mains

"The system includes 2,620 miles of mains, an administration building and shop, a garage building and certain raw water pumping stations, filtered water pumping stations, filtration plants, storage reservoirs and other appurtenant facilities."

"It serves approximately 488,000 customers and pumps more than 130,000,000,000 gallons of water annually. About half of these customers receive water at metered rates and the other half at schedule or fixture rates."

"The outstanding indebtedness is now excluded from the city debt in the calculation of its borrowing power and it is proposed to have the court exclude the \$1,000,000 recently authorized and the \$19,000,000 proposed to be authorized from the debt calculation," the mayor said.

Assistant City Solicitor Herman Schwartz will go into court this week to seek the necessary court order on the debt exclusion.

The rise in water charges which began on January 1, will bring in an additional \$1,400,000, which is sufficient at present to keep the waterworks self-supporting. The rise amounts to 16 per cent on meter and 25 per cent on fixture rates.

# Fox Chase Pump To Open Tuesday

The new \$300,000 Fox Chase booster pumping station, which is expected to furnish a better water supply to the entire Fox Chase area and northeast section of the city, will be put into operation Tuesday morning.

Mayor Bernard Samuel and other city officials will participate in the formal opening of the station. Included will be Director of Public Works Thomas Buckley, Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Water Bureau and Councilmen Clarence K. Crossan, George D. Mansfield, Cornelius S. Deegan, Jr. and David Jamieson.

## FOUR PUMPS IN PLANT

"The booster station," said the Mayor, "is designed to provide adequate service to the Fox Chase area, but in order to level off the pumpages during peak demands and provide more uniform pressures in the higher sections, the improvement program includes storage facilities either in the Fox Chase area or the Somerton section. This storage would be in the form of an elevated tank or stand pipe with a capacity of approximately one to three million gallons."

The new station houses four electric pumps, with the switchgear and appurtenances necessary for operation. Two of the pumps have a capacity of four million gallons daily and the other two a capacity of two million gallons per day.

## \$ MILLION GALLONS A DAY

"These pumps," continued the Mayor, "are started and stopped according to the demands in the Fox Chase area. If necessary, a total of 8,000,000 gallons per day can be pumped to supply the demands."

The water reaches the booster station pumps through a 20-inch cast iron pipe in Lardner st., connecting with a 30-inch and a 48-inch main in Rising Sun ave. The water is discharged through a 20-inch and a 10-inch main in Rising Sun ave.

The distribution area affected is bounded by City Line, Pennypack Creek, Penway st. and Godfrey ave.

# Water bill equality to be caucus aim

A caucus of City Council and Water and Tax Bureau officials has been called for next Tuesday at 10 A. M. as the result of public charges that the water billing system is "unfair."

The special meeting was announced after council's finance committee conferred this morning with Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Water Bureau; Thomas F. Buckley, Director of Public Works, and Herman Schwartz, Assistant City Solicitor.

The three were summoned to the committee's session by Chairman Clarence K. Crossan in an effort to determine, Crossan said, "the real fault" underlying the billing system.

SEEK PLAN  
The meeting Tuesday is to establish a plan to meter the entire city and stabilize billing.

Director Taylor told the committee today one of the chief reasons for unfair billing complaints was the number of unreported plumbing fixtures. He also blamed the lack of proper metering and the number of meters in disrepair.

At present, said Taylor, there are 46,000 meters being repaired and thousands of new meters, which the city ordered a year ago, which have not been installed.

Philadelphia Water Department  
Historical Collection  
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Spi  
Sun Dry  
Just Oversight  
By Attendant

SPIGOTS ran dry in homes near Temple Stadium around supper-time yesterday, and apparently the last person to know about it was an attendant in the Water Bureau's Oak Lane booster station.

Householders plagued City Hall and the Water Bureau with anxious inquiries. Dishes piled up unwashed, youngsters with dirty faces were spared the usual soap-and-water ordeal. Hundreds were excited.

NO ONE was more upset than the Water Bureau's night superintendent. He was baffled—no leaking mains, no drought, no mechanical breakdowns and no water in the bargain. But in the midst of the turmoil, the booster station at 5th st. and Cheltenham ave., was an island of serenity.

"No water?" an attendant echoed a telephone caller. "Wait a minute while I look at my gauges. Gosh—I let the pressure drop!" He developed that he'd forgot to keep an eye on the dials. By 7:45 P. M. water was flowing normally again and the attendant was recovering from his embarrassment.



# 1946 City Plan to Improve Water Is Branded Failure

The 1946 program launched with so much fanfare to give Philadelphia palatable water has collapsed, the Citizens' Council on City Planning said yesterday in a blistering survey of the work of the Bureau of Water.

The report carefully traced the history of the deterioration of the city's water in the last 40 years and the failure of all moves to map and execute long range programs since the first such attempt in 1920.

The 1946 plan has gone the same way, with only one-sixth of the money which citizens believed would go toward giving them tasteless and colorless water, actually being spent on new treatment facilities, the report said. Instead, most of the money went to lay new mains and fix old ones.

## LACK OF PLANS CHARGED

And no detailed plans have been made to spend the \$12,000,000 on which voters will be asked to pass in November, with the "obvious danger" that this money also will dribble away in patch-and-fix jobs on the whole city water system, the report declared.

Nonetheless, in its final 17 recommendations, the Citizens' Council recommended that city water should neither be farmed out to a private company nor put under a separate authority but should be continued as a municipal operation. But it urged a completely revised Bureau of Water and perhaps even a new city Department of Public Utilities administering the huge business operation which water supply represents.

## RED FEATHER AGENCY

The Citizens' Council which drafted this report is a Red Feather agency comprised of representatives of 125 civic organizations and headed by E. Walter Hudson, a hotelman. Vice presidents are Harold W. Brightman, president of Lit Brothers; Walter P. Miller, Jr., chairman of the Committee of Seventy; and Benjamin W. Frazier, Germantown manager for the Philadelphia Gas Works Co.

The report was sprinkled with

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observations showing that 30 percent of the Water Bureau's 1000 employees are more than 60 years old, that in one month the Water Bureau had on file citizens' complaints of 48,000 defective water meters, while 14,630 meters were in its shops awaiting repair—and still only half the city's 470,000 water-users had meters at all.

## ANTIQUATED BILLING

In addition to too many being too old, the employees of the Water Bureau work under a complex "job classification" system of 109 separate job titles, and are hampered by a bad administrative set-up, an antiquated billing procedure and tight-fisted City Council control, the report said.

Present officials of the Department of Public Works and the Water Bureau "can take pride" in improvements "completed in the face of formidable obstacles," the report said.

"But the fact remains that Philadelphia's water supply is still not satisfactory," it added. "Approved plans have been disregarded, urgently needed improvements have been pressed with insufficient vigor, suggesting that both past and present management of the system is in some measure responsible for the continued existence of a water problem in Philadelphia."

## 'MILKED OF PROFITS'

In justice to the Water Bureau, the report adds, citizens should be aware that for years the water system was "milked" of an annual "profit" of two to three million dollars on the sale of water—money which was diverted to other purposes by City Council while the water system was allowed to decay.

And the Water Bureau has never gotten any budget credit for its job of maintaining 20,910 fire hydrants and two networks of high pressure fire mains, the report said.

The scale of the problem confronting the city was emphasized by the data prepared by the Citizens' Council on the city water system as it stands today after 30 years' neglect.

## SUPPLIES 470,000 CUSTOMERS

"It's a big business, supplying almost 470,000 customers with a daily average of 350 million gallons of water. During summer months this average is exceeded. On the day of peak demand last year the output was almost 470 million gallons, or 117 percent of rated capacity."

"The plant, which includes five raw water pumping stations, five filter plants, eight filtered water pumping stations, two filtered water reservoirs, two high pressure fire service pumping stations, almost 2600 miles of main and 20,500 fire hydrants, represents a capital investment of over \$100,000,000."

## MONEY IS DIVERTED

The 1946 program's timetable has been ignored, and money remaining from the unachieved 1940 program has been diverted toward re-

pairs and laying of new mains for new housing, the survey said.

Enough "studies" have been made of Philadelphia water, it observed, and as its first recommendation declared:

"1.—A comprehensive water-works improvement program covering at least the next 10 years should be promptly developed on the basis of existing surveys and proposals."

## OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Citizens' Council then made 16 more specific recommendations:

"2.—The program should be directed toward improvement of the quantity and quality water which can be provided from present sources of supply."

"3.—The program should include projects to permit drawing all of Philadelphia's water from the Delaware River at the Torresdale intake and to permit abandonment of the Schuylkill as a regular source of supply."

"4.—The program should have as its immediate objective the complete installation, within the next two years, of all necessary equipment to remove objectionable tastes and odors in the water and to reduce its mineral content."

"5.—The program should incorporate a schedule for systematic maintenance of the distribution system."

"6.—Meter should be extended to all water services during the next five years."

"7.—As a precaution against possible future inadequacy of the existing Delaware River source of supply, Philadelphia should safeguard its claims to the Wallpack Bend reservoir site."

"8.—All waterworks revenue should be reserved for the operation, maintenance and improvement of the water supply system."

"9.—Delinquencies in payment of water bills should be reduced by enforcement of existing regulations."

"10.—Both current and delinquent water charges should be rendered on a single bill."

"11.—The Water Bureau's accounting methods should be revised and improved."

"12.—Repair of defective meters should be speeded."

"13.—Leakage surveys of the water supply system should be continued."

"14.—The number of job classifications in the Bureau of Water should be reduced."

"15.—The overbalance of older employees in the Bureau of Water should be eliminated, and a compulsory plan instituted for the pensioned retirement of City employees."

"16.—The water supply system should be operated as an independent municipal utility with a segregated budget."

"17.—Consideration should be given to the advisability of establishing a new Department of Public Utilities."

## A New Water Plan

When the taste and odor of Philadelphia water get particularly bad the customary procedure is for the consumers to set up a loud roar of protest. This leads to the appointment of a commission of experts to study the situation. These commissions—so numerous in the past that most persons have lost count of their number—then make expensive and prolonged studies and recommendations. Then their reports are filed for future reference.

Now we have something different. The Mayor advocates the creation of a Philadelphia Water Authority to take over the control and development of our water system. It's big business, he says, and should be handled by specialists.

This may be the right answer. It could mean more than another study and the filing of more reports. An Authority is a device to permit a governmental unit to extend its credit beyond the limits normally provided for by basic law. In this case it could be armed with other powers ordinarily denied to the City. Especially if another move is in the making to promote an upland-source water plan.

In order to pass intelligent judgment on any upland-source project the water consumers would have to be told:

1. Approximately (that is, within a few millions of dollars) what such an undertaking would cost.

2. What it would mean to each water-user in dollars-and-cents service charges and interest and amortization.

3. Whether water obtained from the proposed source would be drinkable without treatment, and, if not, what treatment would be required, at what cost, and with what effect, if any, upon taste.

To pose these questions is not to assume that they cannot be satisfactorily answered. But the answers will be indispensable to a sound decision as to how we shall improve our water supply—whether by insisting on the purification of present sources or by looking to others.

Let's start with the proposition that the present output of the water plant is intolerable, is likely to be again; and is distinctly a detriment to the general prospect of municipal progress.

## New Sewer By Nicetown

A petition protesting the new sewers in the vicinity of 22d St. and City Council yesterday. The petition

## City Dissipated Fund For Water, Group Says

The 1946 waterworks improvement program has failed to advance Philadelphia toward the goal of more and better water, the Citizens Council on City Planning reported yesterday.

Money allocated for improvement and expansion of treatment facilities has been dissipated piecemeal for maintenance and rehabilitation, the council, which represents about 100 civic organizations, reported.

Of the nearly \$9,000,000 originally allocated for the program, it was said, less than one-third was spent for treatment facilities.

## Pollution Seen on Rise

Control of taste and color in the city water has become increasingly difficult, pollution in the Schuylkill and Delaware has risen and maintenance, modernization and improvement of the water supply system has been seriously neglected, the report stated.

The council, noting that the 1946 program "has not been substantially followed" and that its timetables have not been met, warned that the \$20,000,000 the City plans to spend on water improvements in the next three years may be similarly spent for purposes other than those laid down in the 1946 plan.

The report criticized the management and organization of the Bureau of Water.

Substantial revenue has been diverted from needed maintenance and modernization, and this diversion may be repeated to the detriment of waterworks improvement, it was said.

Still, the Citizens Council investi-

"The sewers down in this section were bought and paid for years ago," Janco said. "But we still have to go on paying for them."

## COMPLICATED SCHEDULES

Taylor, however, said Philadelphia's long-range sewerage plan will benefit the entire city, not just those new sections where new sewer lines are being installed. "When the project is completed, both the Schuylkill and the Delaware River will be cleansed, no raw sewage will go into those streams and the entire city will feel the benefits," Taylor said.

Every householder contacted complained sharply about the complexity of the city's archaic water rate schedules appearing on the back of the bills sent consumers.

From these schedules, the consumer is expected to learn how and why he is being assessed, but Taylor admits it would "take a good smart man" to interpret the bills.

Taylor said he would "look into our appropriations" to see if the department can afford to revise the bills to a point where they would be understandable. If the bills can't be changed, Taylor said, there is a possibility that in the future bills sent to private dwellings will contain a separate enclosure explaining the billing method in simplified form.

## ADMITS SYSTEM IS BAD

Admitting that the present method is unfair to those properties now without meters, Taylor added "there is no system that could be devised which would be perfect."

Taylor said householders "would make definite savings" if they would install meters. He estimated that a meter would "pay for itself within four or five years."

Taylor also admitted there was unfairness in "tying the water and sewer rents together into one bill. But," he added, "it is almost an impossibility to find another way."

## EQUALS REALTY TAXES

"The bill I got this year," said Mrs. Mary Cunningham, of 2611 Reed st., "is only 30 cents less than I pay the city in real estate taxes."

Mrs. Cunningham resides at 2611 with her sister, Mrs. Ethel Park; their sister-in-law, Mrs. Mary Duffy, and two young girls, Mrs. Cunningham's daughter, Dorothy, 18, and Mrs. Duffy's daughter, Elaine, 15.

Mrs. Cunningham's combined water-sewer bill for this year was \$40.50. Her real estate tax was \$40.80, and school taxes were \$28.20. Her mother, Mrs. Mary E. Duffy, purchased the property, six rooms and bath, in 1912, and that has been her home for the past 20 years.

Until 1945, the water bill was \$10 annually. That year, the combined water-sewer assessment was \$16, remained at the total for 1947, then went to \$18 in 1948.

"When I got this year's bill for \$40.50," said Mrs. Cunningham, "I went up to the Bureau of Water."

Mrs. Cunningham said she stated her complaint to one of four clerks stationed in the hallway of the bureau's offices on the ninth floor of City Hall Annex.

"He asked me how many we had in the family," Mrs. Cunningham

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said. "I told him five. He said, 'Well, you all take baths down there. That's your answer.'"

"Then for no reason whatsoever he blamed the increase on the fact that Truman was elected last November," she continued.

Mrs. Cunningham said the clerk stated: "If the Republicans had gone to Washington, this would never have happened. We'd never have raised the rates."

Mrs. Cunningham said the clerk suggested she have a meter installed. She asked him what that would cost. "Some plumbers charge \$50," she said was his reply. "They try to rock and sock you," he continued. "But here's the name of a plumber who will do it for \$35. Tell him I sent you. Don't let him charge any more than that."

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Buck, neighbors of Mrs. Cunningham, who live at 2619 Reed st., got an identical bill—\$40.50. Last year their bill was \$18. They use water only for cooking and bathing. Mrs. Buck sends her laundry out.

Stephen Janco, who resides at 2620 Reed st., with his wife, Agnes, and four children ranging in age from 12 to 17 years, charges that "South Philly residents are paying for sewers that they are installing up in the Northeast and West Oak Lane."

Janco's current bill is \$36, exactly double the amount he paid last year.

## Water Billing Unfair, Bureau Chief Admits

### INQUIRER 6/16/49

### Protests Mounting; Householders Urged To Install Meters

While bitter protests against exorbitant water and sewer rents continued to flood the Bureau of Water at the rate of 300 a day, Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the bureau, admitted yesterday that the method used by the city to bill householders of unmetered properties "is the most unfair you possibly could devise."

Taylor, strong advocate of universal metering, said the city's system "doesn't take into account the people who waste water or the good citizens who try to save it."

## MORE INCREASES AHEAD

Sharp criticism of the city's rising water and sewer rates yesterday was sweeping the city. One group of Nicetown citizens already has sent a protest petition to City Council demanding immediate relief. Small householders were rising in all sections against the rates which are scheduled for still greater increases between 1949 and 1953.

Residents of the 2600 block of Reed st., where one housewife has seen her combined water-sewer bill increased 305 percent since 1945, were in complete agreement with Taylor's opinion of the city's method of assessment.



## Stop These Gross Over-Charges for City Water

The meeting which Council has called for Tuesday to act upon taxpayer complaints of inequitable water rates is urgently needed.

As disclosed by The Inquirer, some householders have been compelled to pay water and sewer taxes totaling almost as much as their real estate taxes.

Water Bureau officials have admitted that the present rate schedule for unmetered connections is "the most inequitable possible."

Failure to install meters is, of course, the bedrock reason for the owner of the unmetered properties paying more, but there are other factors.

One is the recent listing by the Water Bureau, after a survey, of many fixtures that were previously unlisted and thus not subjected to a tax. Because inspection had not been made for many years, the number of such fixtures was much greater than had been anticipated, and the boost in rates was correspondingly large.

What Council could do is to revise the rates for unmetered connections so as to provide more equitable charges pending the installation of meters.

Universal meterage is the final objective in the matter. It would not only save taxes for

many consumers but it would save considerable water now wasted.

It has been the fashion at City Hall to blame the individual householders for not installing meters, but there is more to it than that. The Water Bureau is so slow in processing applications for installations that these have piled up, causing long delays. In addition many property owners have found it difficult to obtain plumbers who would handle the work at a fair price. It is said that some plumbers have jumped the price from \$35 to \$75. The Chief of the Water Bureau has said it would take five years to supply the entire city with meters.

That appears unreasonably long, and Council should seek to expedite the installations and at the same time promote arrangements for a standard installation price.

Meanwhile the Water Bureau announcement that persons applying for meters prior to November 30 will be placed on the meter rate January 1, whether or not installation is completed, is helpful.

Many water consumers have suffered from suddenly boosted costs, and the city should do everything possible to help them by facilitating the transfer to lower meter rates.

## Metered Water Bills Bring More Protests Against Higher Rates

Although "only a sample" of bills showing water rates for metered properties has been mailed, City Hall is already engulfed in clamorous protests from householders against the boost in charges, which became effective last Jan. 1.

The protests from property owners who have equipped their houses with meters came as a new and further harassment for clerks already under a bombardment of an average of 300 complaints a day from owners of unmetered houses.

### COUNCIL MEETS TUESDAY

These unmetered houses have been hit with an increase in water and sewer rates as much as three and four times the old charges. Revelation by The Inquirer of the householders' burden thus created has forced City Council to schedule a caucus for 10 A. M. next Tuesday to reconsider the whole problem of water rates.

It was Raymond W. Schmucker, chief clerk of the Water Assessment and Sewer Rent Division of the Department of the Receiver of Taxes, who said yesterday that "although we have sent out only a sample of the kind of bills that we are making up, complaints from metered properties already have started to come in."

City Council, last December, enacted an ordinance slashing the amount of metered water allowed under the minimum charge of \$8.

Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Bureau of Water, said meter readers have covered about 50 percent of the metered dwellings, checking water consumption. Judging from results thus far, Taylor said, at least 60 percent of the 241,736 metered homes in the city have consumed more than the minimum.

Taylor said the increases in the

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amounts of the bills will range up to 22 1/2 percent above that paid last year. The new rate charges consumers 45 cents for each 1000 cubic feet above the minimum.

### MORE PROTESTS COMING

City Hall officials predicted that as the number of bills sent out to metered tenants increased, the protests against the new water-sewer charges would "jump fourfold."

Schmucker said his staff had sent only 1800 bills to "some consumers in the 35th Ward in the Northeast. And already we are getting complaints."

Schmucker said his office has approximately 30,000 more bills ready to be mailed. "Most of these are in the same 35th Ward, so for a while we will be getting all our complaints from that section of the city."

### MINIMUM SLASHED

Prior to Jan. 1, consumers were allowed 80,000 gallons annually for their \$8 minimum bill. With the change, this was slashed to 40,000.

It was pointed out that since the present sewer charge is 80 percent of the water bill, the ordinance likewise boosted the sewer rents.

This slash in the minimum was enacted to replace an earlier "25 percent, across-the-board" increase that met with such a wave of public disapproval that it was discarded.

### NO CHANGES IN SIGHT

Despite this unfavorable reaction City Hall apparently does not contemplate any immediate change.

Assistant City Solicitor Herman Schwartz said "it would be impossible to reduce the current water and sewer rates without jeopardizing the city's water improvement program and the city's borrowing power."

"When the new water rates went into effect," Schwartz added, "the city went into court and obtained permission to exclude \$20,000,000 in new water debt from the city's borrowing power. The city anticipates spending this additional \$20,000,000 within the next three or four years."

Schwartz added that the new rates "will produce only sufficient revenue to maintain the present system and allow the city to amortize both the old and new water debt."

### METER READERS BUSY

Taylor said his staff of meter readers, working the city by wards, would take months more to complete their job. Some of the meters, he said, will not be ready until the fall.

Schmucker's job of billing those exceeding the minimum will not be completed until near the end of the year.

As new complaints continued to arrive from householders in unmetered properties, Taylor said re-inspection of thousands of properties throughout the city disclosed that in many dwellings additional outlets had been added to the water systems without official notification to the Water Bureau.

### BASIC FLAT CHARGE

The basic flat charge for unmetered dwellings is \$12.50, regardless of the amount of water used. This includes the 25 percent increase which was discarded for metered properties. The number of faucets and other outlets figure in the total amount of the bills.

Taylor said that during the past year 16 inspectors made re-inspections of 51,732 properties.

"The reason for some of the increases, so strongly protested now, is the fact that these inspectors uncovered new plumbing fixtures in these dwellings that had never been taxed in previous years," Taylor added.

### URGED TO GET METERS

Taylor believes that the solution for these unmetered users is to have their properties metered. "They would get the benefits of a lower rate and within four or five years these savings would pay for the initial cost of installation."

Taylor also advocates that the city add \$2.50 yearly for meter service. At present the city services meters but the average cost to the householder when one goes wrong is \$8.

## Water Chief Offers Plan To Cut Bills

*Inquirer 6/18/49*  
Council Arranges Meeting to Debate Whole 'Hot' Issue

A way out for Philadelphians confronted by enormous increases in unmetered water bills was disclosed yesterday by Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Water Bureau.

He also hinted that a city-wide reduction in the rate was possible.

Any householder who applies for a water meter by Nov. 30 will go on the metered rate (minimum charge \$8 annually) on Jan. 1 whether or not a meter is installed by that time, Taylor told a stormy meeting of City Council's Finance Committee.

His hint that a rate reduction was possible drew a bitter rebuke from Councilman Clarence K. Crossan, chairman of the committee, but so many Councilmen said their constituents were up in arms at the water boosts revealed by The Inquirer that a full-dress caucus on the whole issue by the entire Council was fixed for Tuesday at 10 A. M.

### YIELD TO PRESSURE

Water charges were not on the agenda of the committee session in Room 496 at City Hall but the repercussions from The Inquirer's disclosure that gross inequities exist and some householders are paying water-sewer bills as large as 55 percent of their real estate taxes apparently forced hurried consideration of the problem.

Both Thomas Buckley, Director of Public Works, and Taylor were called to the session and the cross-examination was vigorous.

Taylor again admitted that "the present unmetered rate schedule is about the most unreasonable that could be devised," and also admitted that 46,000 water meters have piled up awaiting repairs at his bureau at 29th and Cambria sts.

Crossan opened the session by asking if the bills now being sent out are correctly made under the increases voted by Council. Taylor said the increases, doubling and tripling water charges, were correctly calculated and thus far "the percentage of error has been small."

"Is it true that water meters are generally available?" Crossan asked.

Taylor hedged: "There's no indication that meters are not available. Applications now overload the Receiver of Taxes office so that permits do not go out as quick as we would like."

### CAN'T GET PLUMBERS

Buckley interjected that "one reason for the lag in installation of meters is householders' inability to get plumbers and the fact plumbers have jumped their prices on the job."

"Isn't it true?" Councilman Louis Menna said, "that plumbers have raised the price for the job from \$35 to \$75 and in some cases to \$100?"

Buckley said he couldn't answer

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that one, and Assistant City Solicitor Herman Schwartz said that "although the rates themselves aren't excessive, there's no uniform pricing system, and the increases are in many cases due to discovery of water-using fixtures not previously reported—after all, there is a minimum of \$8 for 4000 cubic feet of water a year."

### THERE'S NO SUCH THING

"But if you have no meter, there's no such thing as an \$8 rate," Councilman George Maxman snapped.

"We were told," he said, "that the rates we voted would produce an approximate increase of 25 percent. We were told nothing about rates being doubled, tripled, and in some cases quadrupled. These rates are unfair and away out of line. In the light of what has happened, the case for the new rates was not presented to us in a proper way."

Maxman said, "unscrupulous plumbers are mulcting our people and there must be some way to protect them."

"I know of identical houses," he said, "and in one of them the rate for water this year went from \$21.60 to \$72 but in the other house the rate raise was only from \$8 up to \$21."

### 'MOST UNREASONABLE'

"The unmetered rate schedule is about the most unreasonable that can be devised," Taylor said in answer. "But the metered schedule is very fair."

It was at this point that Taylor said "it's entirely up to City Council if the present rates are amended."

This seemed to upset Crossan, who said: "Any reduction in rates would seriously upset our financial picture."

## Thinks We Pay Too Little for Water

*Letter to Bulletin - 6/17/49*  
I have read with interest your account of Mr. Finnegan's complaints about the inequities of Philadelphia sewer and water rents, and was amused by the so-called "horrible" examples presented, as well as by his use of the usual political trick of failing to suggest any practical alternative.

I too, feel that the situation is foul and I do have a suggestion. For the record, to keep the proper perspective, I own an unmetered property in West Philadelphia on which the combined rents total \$69.75, so that I do have a stake in this matter.

Why not divorce the sewer charge from the water rent entirely? Make a straight charge of ten or fifteen dollars a year for each active connection, and a graduated charge for increasing diameters? Under this plan, people will be paying for utility. Two adults, for example, place an equal strain upon sewer facilities, whether they reside in a small or large house. Added water connections do not necessarily mean that a greater

load is placed upon the sewer system unless the number of connections served is increased. No one who has a valid connection has any valid complaint. If that was the total bill, a sum is too little for it.

In addition to a flat sewer connection charge, I also advocate the metering of all utilities, with a monthly bill which would permit 600 gallons, six gallons per person. Readings and billing be made quarterly, with service discontinued if bill is not paid within the next 90 days.

Drastic, perhaps, but it is time that the City's water was paying its way, so that improvements can be made, and the quality of water made more palatable.

My conclusion, after perusing some check sheets in a branch office of Tax Receiver's office, is that the majority of property owners pay too little, not too much, for these vital services.

H. L. Matsinger  
Camden, N. J.

## Plumbers Blame City on Meters

*Bulletin 6/21/49*  
High Cost of Water Work Is Protested

The high cost of water meters is not due to the greed of plumbers but to the inefficiency of city bureaus that control meter installations, master plumbers asserted today.

The charge was made by a delegation of 25 plumbers who demanded, and got, a hearing from Council President Frederic D. Garman just before Council went into caucus to review Philadelphia's entire water rent policy.

The caucus was agreed on last week after a mounting wave of taxpayers' protests against inequitable rate increases, particularly for unmetered water. Political leaders said that unless something is done there may be reprisals at the polls in the municipal election this fall.

### Group Is Angry

It was an angry group of plumbers that descended on Garman. Their ire was directed primarily against Councilman Louis Menna, who asserted last week that householders have been delayed in installing meters because plumbers have "jumped the price" of meter installations from \$35 to \$75 and more.

The Philadelphia Master Plumbers Association, the Retail Merchant Plumbers Association and affiliated groups labeled the charge as false and demanded an apology. Menna was not present.

"Maybe Menna has been doing business with bootleg plumbers, but not with reputable plumbers," said E. Herman Moser, a director of the Merchant Plumbers Association.

Complaints Listed

The plumbers told Garman: That the average price for installing a meter, unless special street or cellar digging is involved, is still \$35, and not \$75 or more.

That plumbers seeking permits for meter installations sometimes are compelled to spend days, or even weeks in getting them and in the process are shunted from one office to another in City Hall Annex.

That when a meter is turned over to the City for repairs, no receipt for it is issued; the City keeps such meters for months and years, sometimes for as long as five years.

That meters awaiting repair are "piled up like coal, in heaps 30 feet high," at the city repair shops, 29th and Cambria sts.

Inconvenience Charged

That the obstacles the city places in the path of a plumber seeking a meter installation permit involve expensive inconvenience and lots of time for the plumber.

"A meter costs \$18.90 net. But if a plumber must waste days getting a permit, it isn't fair to charge the public for that, is it?" asked one plumber. "You have two clerks doing the work that 25 are needed to do."

"How can you fix a price for meter installations with conditions as they are?" asked another. "What is a fair price? How can you arrive at one under such an inefficient permit system?"

Spokesmen for the plumber, besides Moser, were Saul Steele, Jr., John D. Cross and Frank J. Blazek.

Garman said that they name a committee of five men and water officials to discuss the whole matter.

The plumbers agreed.

## Unfair Water Charges

*Bulletin - 6/19/49*  
If there is unfairness in water and sewer charges for certain homes without meters, it may be that the owners are beneficiaries rather than victims.

The owner of a metered property pays in proportion to the amount of water taken from the water system and discharged into the sewer system. He has an incentive to be careful in the use of water, and this usually puts him on guard against waste. This, in turn, tends to reduce city operating costs for water supply and sewage disposal.

The flat-rate properties pay by a formula that means nothing in terms of water drawn, and gives no incentive to conserve. Occupants of such property unquestionably draw more water than if they were on meters. It is no more than fair that they pay more than the metered consumers.

Many unmetered properties cheat through use of fixtures unlawfully installed, for which the city makes no charge because it doesn't know about them.

The remedy for any unfairness that may exist lies in metering all properties rather than in encouraging unmetered properties to continue without meters by reducing their rates.

These days a property without a water meter is as absurd as one without a gas or electric meter.



# Council Slashes Bills For Unmetered Water, 25,000 to Get Refunds

## 25 Pct. Ceiling Ordered on Rate Rises

Illustrated on Page 36  
By WILLIAM F. FEIST

A sweeping rollback in water rentals for unmetered properties and imposition of a 25 percent ceiling on increases in current water bills over the 1948 level were ordered by a caucus of City Council members yesterday, in response to widespread protests against rates that have soared as high as 300 percent above normal.

As a result of Council's action, 65,000 bills for excess water charges on unmetered properties, already prepared and ready for mailing, were held up indefinitely by the Bureau of Water.

### 25,000 TO GET REFUNDS

About 25,000 water users in unmetered properties will receive "prompt" refunds on their current water and sewer bills following the Council order. Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Water Bureau, said the refunds will go into the mail immediately after final enabling legislation is passed by Council about June 30.

Yesterday's Council order, which followed disclosure by The Inquirer of enormous water rent increases, also extends the time limit for payment of 1949 water and sewer bills from June 30 to Aug. 31, so that no penalties will apply on bills paid before that date.

### INFORMAL APPROVAL

Informal approval of the necessary legislation to make these changes possible was voted at a three-hour caucus of Council members. The legislation itself will be introduced in that body tomorrow.

In addition to the changes already listed, it will require the Director of Public Works, to make a survey of existing water rates and report back to Council with recommendations for necessary changes, and to submit a program of progressive metering so that all properties may be metered in the shortest possible time.

### CALLED BY MEADE

The Councilmanic caucus, called by William F. Meade, chairman of the Republican City Committee, to adjust inequalities in water charges, was a direct outgrowth of disclosures by The Inquirer that the combination water and sewer charges on many small properties was nearly as much as the real estate taxes on those same properties.

Meade, who with Sheriff Austin Mehan and other city leaders attended the meeting, explained that

the water charges on unmetered properties were so out of line with those charged in metered properties that some remedial legislation must be adopted by Council.

### NEW FIXTURES REPORTED

Taylor, who also attended the meeting, estimated that about 25,000 water users in unmetered properties would receive refunds on their current water and sewer bills.

He said about 51,000 properties were re-inspected last year for unreported water fixtures and about half of them showed newly installed fixtures. On that basis, he said, about half of the water users will be entitled to refunds.

The refunds will be mailed directly to the water users by the City Treasurer following enactment of the proposed legislation, which can be passed finally by Council as early as June 30.

### BORROWING POWER

Assistant City Solicitor Herman N. Schwartz, who is preparing the legislation for introduction in Council, said it was likely, however, the ordinance would be passed finally on July 7.

City officials, at the same time, expressed confidence that the rollback of rates would not affect the city's borrowing power or seriously impair the city's current income.

They pointed out that this year's water revenue and the self-sufficiency of the water system, both as to maintenance and amortization of the water debt, were based on an overall increase of 25 percent in the water rates.

### REPORT ON REVENUE

Meanwhile, Receiver of Taxes W. Frank Marshall announced that water receipts for the current year total \$3,720,412. The estimated yield for the year is about \$9,000,000. However, more than half of the current bills have not been paid.

The caucus of Council requested by Meade was attended by Meehan, Director of Public Works Thomas Buckley, Frederic D. Garman, president of Council, Assistant City Solicitor Schwartz, City Controller Frank J. Tiemann, Marshall, Council members and technical staffs from the Receiver of Taxes' office and the Bureau of Water.

Earlier in the day about 25 members of the Master Plumbers Association called on Garman, to protest statements of city officials that plumbers had stepped up the charges for installation of water meters from \$35 to \$75.

### SUGGESTIONS MADE

They also made recommendations to increase the number of installations. Acting on that suggestion, Garman appointed a committee of city officials to meet with representatives of the plumbers to eliminate red tape in the issuance of permits for meter installations.

E. Herman Moser, a plumbing and heating contractor, and one of the association's spokesmen, told Garman that plumbers are forced to visit as many as five different bureaus and spend as much as a day to a week to obtain the necessary meter installation permits.

### 4-YEAR LAG ON REPAIRS

He said unreported meters are piled mountain-high at the city's meter repair shop at 29th and Cambria sts. and that he personally knew of meters which had been there from four to five years.

He said he and his associates particularly resented charges made by Councilman Louis Menna that plumbers were charging as high as \$75 and asked that Menna make a public apology for his statement.

"What can the public think of us," he declared, "when even city officials call us crooks and thieves." He intimated that unless Menna apologized, the association might be forced to take legal action.

Menna denied that he had made a blanket charge against plumbers, but said he knew some plumbers who were charging as much as \$75. "I don't say all plumbers charge as high as \$75," he declared. "I know most plumbers are on the up and up. There are a few who overcharge, however. My own brother is a master plumber."

At the conclusion of the plumbers' visit, Garman named Buckley, Taylor, Schwartz and Councilman Clarence K. Crossan, chairman of the Finance Committee, to meet with representatives of the plumbers at 2 P. M. next Tuesday, in Room 400, City Hall, to map a program for reducing the time element in obtaining permits and promote a greater degree of cooperation in the installation of water meters.

## Water Bill Ceiling Extension Urged

James A. Finnegan, Democratic City Chairman, yesterday demanded that City Council place a 25 percent ceiling on the increase of water-sewer rents charged tenants of metered properties.

Finnegan, in a letter to Frederic D. Garman, president of City Council, declared that "consumers" in metered properties should share the same benefits ordered for users in unmetered properties. Council, in a caucus on Tuesday, limited the increase for unmetered properties to 20 percent.

Finnegan said while the decision of council "was commendable, it does not go far enough. In the first place, there is no mention of any restriction on the amount of the increase which must be paid by metered water users."

"I urge," Finnegan continued, "that the 25 percent limitation be applied to all increases in water and sewer rent bills, whether the water supply is metered or unmetered."

Finnegan chided City Council for ignoring "my request for a thorough investigation of the Water Bureau, and particularly of the wide-scale chiseling and cheating of the city by large commercial users, the existence of which was admitted by Elbert J. Taylor, head of the Water Bureau."

## City to Consider Water Protests

By WILLIAM F. FEIST

Worried by the flood of protests over excessive increases in unmetered water bills, City Council planned to meet in executive session Tuesday to devise some way of appeasing irate taxpayers.

Fear was expressed generally, and particularly by Republican committeemen, that unless some relief is given, the voters may express their resentment by voting against the administration and the party at the coming election.

Council took cognizance of the storm of protests at a meeting of its Finance Committee last Thursday following disclosures in The Inquirer that the combination water and sewer charges for some properties almost equal the city real estate taxes on these same homes.

### CAN CUT WATER RATES

Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Water Bureau, told the committee that Council has the power to reduce the water rates, but Councilman Clarence K. Crossan warned him that

such a step would "seriously upset our financial picture."

Much the same advice was given by Assistant City Solicitor Herman Schwartz, who said the increased water rates were intended only to produce sufficient revenue to maintain the municipal water system and continue to make it self-supporting.

Schwartz pointed out that while some unmetered property owners were paying considerably more than the 25 percent maximum increase authorized under the new water rent schedule, the excess payments were due to unreported water fixtures in these properties.

### BASIS OF COURT PLEA

The Assistant City Solicitor also explained the new rates were the basis of the city's petition to the courts to exclude new water debt as a lien against the city's borrowing power. The city expects to spend \$20,000,000 in the next few years to continue the water improvement program.

Therefore, any move to reduce existing water rates would not only throw the current municipal budget out of line, but put the city's borrowing capacity in jeopardy, it was explained.

Taylor offered a ray of hope for the overburdened taxpayers with the announcement that owners of unmetered properties would be put on the metered rate schedule beginning next January provided they made

application to have water meter installed before Nov. 30, 1949.

### METER RATES CALLED FAIR

He said this provision was inserted in the ordinance boosting water rates as an incentive to property owners to install meters. He admitted the unmetered rate schedule "is about the most unreasonable that can be devised." At the same time, he insisted the metered rates were very fair.

The city's failure, until recently, to make an intensive survey of unreported water fixtures has cost the municipality hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue. A half-hearted attempt to locate these fixtures had previously been made, but it was not until the Committee of Fifteen insisted on a thorough probe that it was undertaken seriously.

Taylor said the survey has covered all but 10 of the city's 52 wards and that thousands of unreported fixtures had been discovered. Crossan told his colleagues that in one small ward alone approximately 40,000 extra fixtures had been discovered on which the property owners were paying nothing.

## Plumbers Deny Boosting Prices

Spokesmen for the city's retail plumbers yesterday denied allegations by city officials that one reason for the lag in the installation of water meters in city homes is that plumbers have "jumped their prices" for installation work.

In a letter to Director of Public Works Thomas Buckley, I. Irving Tubis, counsel for the West Philadelphia Master Plumbers Association, declared Buckley's remarks about a price jump, made before City Council's Finance Committee on Thursday, "do not correctly state the facts."

### JOINED IN PROTEST

Tubis was joined in his protest by John D. Crawford, secretary of the Retail Merchant Plumbers Association.

"I feel that the plumbers of this city are entitled to an opportunity to correct the impressions that have been unfairly created," Tubis told Buckley. "The plumbers of this city have a very vital interest in the health and welfare of our citizens."

His letter asked that a hearing be set in the near future, "at which time our association as well as others can present their views and attempt to correct the defamatory impressions that have been instilled in the minds of many people."

### ASK RECHECK ON RENTALS

At the same time, representatives of the Philadelphia Real Estate Board urged upon City Council President Frederic D. Garman a "re-examination" of the subject of city water rentals.

"The bills that have been rendered for unmetered water, certainly, appear to be conclusive evidence of the inequity of the rentals that are being imposed," said John J. Stapleton, general chairman of the legislative and civic affairs committee of the Board, in a letter to Garman.

"We are quite sure that City Council, which is not inclined at any time to be unreasonable and inequitable relative to the burden of the home owners, will upon careful examination of this situation agree that the present rentals for unmetered water are inequitable and unreasonable."

### CITES REPAIR SITUATION

"It has been publicly stated and likewise admitted," Stapleton added, "that about 50,000 water meters are in charge of the Bureau of Water for repair. The repair of these meters and the reinstallation of them is a factor in this situation which, in our opinion, is really worthy of serious consideration and action."

"It has also been publicly stated that in many instances the water and sewer bills, as they have been rendered, represent as high as 55 percent of the city taxes that home owners must pay upon their properties. We feel sure that City Council, conscious of the interest of the home owner, will give this matter as prompt attention as possible."

## Water Rate Revision Helps—But Speed Meterage

The readjustment in water rates on unmetered properties agreed to by City Council will relieve a situation, exposed by The Inquirer, which has worked injustice upon thousands of taxpayers.

It will roll back rates to a maximum of 25 percent over the 1948 level and will mean refunds to thousands of taxpayers whose water charges had suddenly been increased up to 300 percent above normal.

The Councilmanic action follows this newspaper's disclosures that many property owners found their water and sewer rates approaching the amount paid in real estate taxes.

The rollback will be helpful but it is no permanent solution for water rate inequities. The solution is still universal meterage. If every taxpayer had a water meter he would pay a fair charge on the water used and costly wastage of water, especially in hot weather, would be avoided.

Only about one-half of the city's 430,000 outlets are metered at the present time. The Water Bureau officially encourages the in-

stallation of meters but as a practical matter it enmeshes the whole subject in a vast amount of red tape. Plumbers say they are shunted from one bureau to another and delayed for many days in seeking installation permits. Meters sent to the Water Bureau for repairs are piled up like coal in a bin awaiting their turn. It has been estimated at City Hall that it would take five years under the best conditions to complete city-wide meterage.

There should be some way to expedite it. Council, besides reducing rates, has asked the Director of Public Works to submit a program of progressive metering so that all outlets may be metered in the shortest possible time. It has also ordered a survey of the water rate structure, with recommendations for possible changes.

The whole water rent structure here has been a hodge-podge for many years. A city half-metered, half-unmetered has inevitably resulted in rate inequities that can be remedied only by the metering of all, with reasonable rates charged for the service given.

**WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE:** Walter Phillips, who gave up on the GOP & switched to the Demos as his best hope for cleaning up City Hall, is on the warpath against the proposed Water & Sewer Authority. Says he:

"The plan is nothing more than a potential 'hoodle deal'—in other words, a 'steal.' It takes the water system out of civil service—and lets the politically-appointed Authority members hire & fire at will."

"The Authority gets a free hand with the projected \$100,000,000 water & sewer improvement plan. Without any trouble they could scrap it or boost it up to \$300,000,000 or more. They could make any deals they want—including the Lehigh Coal & Navigation land-selling offer already rejected by the city..."

His guess at the real reason behind the Authority idea: to free the GOP from a headache & attempt to stop the Demos from making water a campaign issue.

## Water Authority Urged by Mayor; Backed by C of C

With the unanimous indorsement of the Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Bernard Samuel yesterday asked City Council to create a Water and Sewer Authority to take over the whole municipal water and sewage system.

Fowers assigned 11 years ago to the Philadelphia Authority but never used would be revoked under the Mayor's plan, which was referred to Council's Law Committee.

City Council also formally received yesterday the ameliorative measures decided upon at a caucus on Tuesday.

### 25 PERCENT CEILING

These fixed a ceiling of 25 percent over 1948 unmetered rates on any increase on any specific bill this year, authorized refunds for the 25,000 who have paid the inflated bills, demanded a new water-fixture survey for rate-making purposes, and extended the time limit on payment of 1949 water-and-sewer bills from June 30 to Aug. 31.

These decisions were taken at a Council caucus called by William F. Meade, Republican City Chairman, after The Inquirer exposed the excessive charges incorporated in the new water bills.

### TWO POINTS STRESSED

The Mayor's letter of transmittal, with a draft of an ordinance creating a Water and Sewer Authority, did

Continued on Page 2, Column 8

## Water Authority Urged by Mayor

Continued From First Page

not discuss the merits of the proposal but stressed two things.

One of these was City Council's right to name all five members of the board of the new authority.

The other was that the authority would be empowered only to take over, operate, improve and extend water and sewage facilities but could not embark on any other project without specific City Council authorization.

The Chamber of Commerce indorsement was announced in a letter from Victor F. Sheronas, chairman of the Chamber's Civic Affairs Council, to Frederic D. Garman, president of City Council.

### 'OUT OF POLITICS'

"A Water and Sewer Authority," Sheronas wrote, "would permit efficient operation of these utilities by taking them out of politics and allowing them to be operated by businessmen."

Sheronas wrote that present plans envision a 40-million-dollar sewer and sewage disposal program and a 15-million-dollar water improvements program. These should be administered by an authority, he said.

### LACK OF METERS CITED

He pointed out that "less than half of some 500,000 homes in this city have been metered" and said that "in many instances" meters once installed have been removed for repairs "and never returned."

"This has resulted in the present disparity of rates which has caused a public uproar," he said, citing instances in which comparable houses have paid \$8 yearly for water, if metered, and \$40 yearly, if not metered.

"This can and will be eliminated under an authority operation," Sheronas said, "for the authority can take immediate steps to install meters in all houses and factories without in any way endangering the borrowing capacity of the city."

The ordinance suggested by the Mayor would create a board of five members sitting for terms ranging from one to five years.

### REFUNDS AUTHORIZED

One of its immediate problems is the public furor over inflated water charges. Council passed resolutions which extended the period in which no penalties will be charged on 1949 water and sewer bills, to Aug. 31, and instructing the Director of Public Works to prepare a city-wide metering plan and meanwhile make a new water fixture survey.

Ordinances were introduced to fix a 25 percent ceiling on increases on unmetered properties, and authorizing refunds on bills already paid. These ordinances were considered by the Finance Committee during a recess and then passed on first reading.

Philadelphia Water Department  
Historical Collection  
2004.019.0028A



## City Officials to Aid Plumbers Cut Meter Permit Red Tape

A committee of city officials and master plumbers will be set up to simplify the procedure of issuing plumbing installation permits, especially for water meters.

The proposal to create the committee was made and approved yesterday at a meeting of city officials and 20 master plumbers, representing five organizations.

The plumbers, who complained heatedly of red tape and long delays in issuing permits, arranged the meeting with Frederic D. Garman, president of City Council. It was held as the result of a claim by Councilman Louis Menna that plumbers have been hiking their charges for water meter installations.

Present, at the invitation of Garman, were Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the water bureau; Herbert M. Packer, chief of the bureau of housing and sanitation; Thomas Buckley, director of public works; Buckley's deputy director, Louis Schneider, and Councilmen Phineas T. Green, Clarence K. Crossan and Garman.

It was agreed that up to five master plumbers will serve with

interested city officials on the new committee. An effort will be made to work out a permit system doing away with the present method, which requires plumbers to visit as many as six city offices in their search for permits.

## C. OF C. PUSHES WATER BOARD

The Chamber of Commerce today pushed its recommendation for a city water and sewer authority by publishing results of a survey indicating that one-third of all cities in the U. S. with more than 5000 population, have such an authority.

Opposition to the move for establishing a water authority has come chiefly from the Greater Philadelphia Movement, an organization of businessmen and bankers, chartered this week.

Others opposed to the authority include the Citizens' Council on City Planning, which directed a letter today to Frederic D. Garman, president of City Council, saying the authority "was no infallible assurance of sound business management of service."

The letter, signed by Walter Fesnak, chairman of the Citizens' Council committee on Public Improvement declared the "establishment of an authority would be an infringement on the task of the proposed Charter Commission."

It is the contention of GPM and the Citizens' Council that the decision for an authority be left to the commission.

## CofC Calls a Water Authority Good Business

The Chamber of Commerce seeks a Water and Sewer Authority, Ralph Kelly, president, said today, because of the current need of "a business administration by sincere, non-partisan businessmen."

The successful experience of the city with operation of the gas system by the Philadelphia Gas Works Co. was called by Kelly "a practical example of what can be expected from a Water and Sewer Authority."

Joint control over water and sewers, universal water metering and a businesslike accounting and billing procedure are some of the advantages of an authority, Kelly said. In Pennsylvania, he added, 73 municipal authorities handle water and sewer facilities.

## City to Cut Red Tape On Plumbing Permits

City departments are now taking steps to eliminate "red tape" and otherwise facilitate the issuance of necessary permits for the installation of water, heating and plumbing installations, City Council spokesmen assured Philadelphia plumbers yesterday.

The assurances were given at a meeting of Council members and representatives of the Philadelphia Master Plumbers Association, held in Room 400 City Hall. The conference followed complaints by officers of the association against remarks made last week by Councilman Louis Menna, who claimed the plumbers were overcharging for the installation of water meters.

### PROPOSES APPOINTMENT

Daniel D. Crawford, president of the Retail Merchant Plumbers Association, one of five groups making up the Master Plumbers Association requested as part of a program the simplification of procedure in granting permits that Council President Frederic D. Garman be authorized to appoint up to five master plumbers to confer with representatives of the Department of Public Works, the Bureau of Water, the Division of Housing and Sanitation, and the Receiver of Taxes office, on methods of eliminating red tape.

Crawford also protested that plumbers are being "made tax collectors for the city." He cited the fact that before a plumber, at present, may get a permit for the installation of water fixtures, he must obtain verification of the fact that the property owner is not delinquent in taxes.

He further recommended that Council provide adequate personnel in the meter repair shop of the Water Bureau, to cut down on the 46,000 water meters now awaiting repair in the shop.

## Might Be the Snake Again

A mythological creature that has been around so long he's almost a pet is the "Old Water Snake." It is the name given to proposals to spend city cash by the hundreds of millions to bring water down from the distant mountains.

Under some of the plans tens of millions would go to the owners of upstate land, reputed to be willing to sell if they get their price.

Among the more engaging characteristics of the Old Water Snake is its ability to appear in just about every disguise imaginable. Its versatility in this respect is so renowned that merely to mention a plan for better water is to raise the question in many minds whether that reptile is in again.

Is the Mayor's proposal of a Water and Sewer Authority the Old Water Snake, once more trying to pull a fast one? It could be, and the safest course is to study the proposal very carefully before trying to give the answer.

Once created, a Water Authority might find itself going to upland sources for water, and there might not be any way to stop it.

City Council might fear to take a chance with the voters on such a scheme, but the Authority would not be answerable to the voters. If City Council proposed to spend the scores of millions necessary to go upstate for water, the voters might turn down the loans. But an Authority doesn't submit loans to the voters.

The Authority is one of the most amazing devices for evading popular control ever to be held legal under a democratic form of government.

## ANOTHER WATER SNAKE?



Philadelphia Water Department  
Bureau of Water  
2004.019.0028B

### URGES REMEDY

The city is losing hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, Crawford declared, through improper meter reading. He urged that this condition be remedied at once by providing competent personnel to read meters. Finally, he recommended that plumbing fixtures sold direct to the customer be reported to the city, as a means of checking bootleg installations, assuring additional revenue to the city, and eliminating health hazards.

Councilman Clarence K. Crossan, who attended the session with Garman, said he agreed with E. Herman Moser, a director of the Retail Merchant Plumbers Association, about the complicated procedure now involved in getting permits at City Hall, and told the group a bill which would have consolidated the various permit-issuing agencies was introduced in the last session of the Legislature, but died in committee.

Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Water Bureau, told the plumbers of the steps already taken to simplify and facilitate the issuance of permits. In the future, he promised, the city would not hold up permits for water meters because of rental delinquencies.

## Water Meter Ownership

Philadelphia got off on the wrong foot when it began to allow property owners to own their own water meters. The consequences did not become embarrassing for a long time; but now they are here, and the city faces the difficult task of retracing steps that never should have been taken.

One result of private ownership of meters is that when a meter has to be removed for repairs, the city must put back that identical meter instead of installing another.

Because it is impossible to keep up with the repair job, thousands of metered properties go without meters for long periods.

Another complication is that when the purchase of meters is left to the property owners progress toward universal metering is slow. Yet when proposals are made to have the city buy and install meters on the services as yet unmetered, comprising about half the total number of services, the question is raised whether this would be fair to those who have bought their own meters.

If it tackled the problem seriously, City Hall could doubtless work out a reasonably satisfactory answer, even though it had to pay something for privately-owned meters. The solution is not easy, but delay is not going to make it any easier.

The Philadelphia Gas Works Company and the Philadelphia Electric Company would consider private ownership of meters the height of folly.

## No Super-Government

Mayor Samuel is a very amiable man, and a good listener. Politeness required him to give a hearing to the authors of the Water and Sewer Authority proposition. But it was time for him to grow indignant when he was asked to surrender his powers as head of the \$100,000,000 municipal corporation and suggest the creation of a super-government to do part of the job he is paid for.

If Philadelphia is unable to hire the best brains available in the country to manage its water supply and its sewer system, the remedy does not lie in abdication to an Authority. It lies in Councilmanic action to pay experts whatever their services are worth in the open market.

Resort to the creation of a Water and Sewer Authority would not alone be humiliating to the man who proposes it—it would be an insult to the intelligence of Philadelphia voters and taxpayers. It is equivalent to saying to them: "Look here—you ought to have had gumption enough to elect a Chief Executive who can execute. But since you put me on this spot, I'm going to go out and find somebody who can function."

The Bulletin thinks better of the Mayor than he thinks of himself. He has all the necessary power an Authority would have, and he can get more to fit special requirements upon consultation with Council. In this instance he seems merely to have taken bad advice.

When this City sets about the drafting of a new Charter it won't want to find any artificially erected obstacles in the way, or any part of the functions of City management and genuine Home Rule spirited away and lodged in unreachable hands. The people of this community now have charge of their own water supply and sewer operations, and if they don't like the management they can vote it out.

But a Water and Sewer Authority would be out of reach of the voters.

Everybody who has a vote in Philadelphia would do well to think that one over.

## A Civic Duty in Dry Spells: Do Not Waste Water!

Public cooperation in preventing the waste of water is essential during spells of severe heat and long-drawn out drought such as that which has afflicted the Philadelphia area during recent weeks—along with most of the Atlantic Seaboard.

Those in charge of water supply, whether in the city proper or in the suburban communities, can do everything possible to conserve water so that everyone receives an adequate share, but selfish wastage by a few consumers can upset their efforts.

In weather like this the demand for water naturally shoots up suddenly to abnormal proportions. There is greater daily consumption for drinking and for bathing purposes, and in many cases, especially in the suburbs, for irrigating lawns, flower beds and vegetable gardens dried out because of lack of rain.

In addition more water is used in the many public and private pools to which overheated citizens of the city and vicinity flock to obtain some relief.

The water plants in Philadelphia and those serving the nearby communities are geared for the seasonal jump in consumption and are usually, from the standpoint of capacity, able to take care of it.

But the measures and precautions they may take can be unbalanced by sudden excessive use of water for long periods without a letup, possibly by protracted lawn or garden watering.

The result may be a lowering of pressure that will mean the reduction in water supply available to some householders at the very time they need it most.

It becomes a neighborhood duty to conserve water, especially during heat waves and dry spells, by using it for essentials only, person permitting his lawn-sprinkler to run on full force all day long is "hogging" supply and unfairly preventing others from getting their share.

So that everyone may have enough of this precious commodity in hot weather be sure to see to it that in your household water is not wasted.

## Water, sewer authority ordinance introduced

By AUDREY HINSEY  
(DAILY NEWS Staff Member)

An ordinance to establish a water and sewer authority for the operation, improvement and extension of the city water facilities was introduced today to City Council and referred to the Public Works Committee for approval.

Prepared by Frank F. Truscott, city solicitor, the ordinance called for establishing a five-man board to be selected by City Council. The board members would be appointed for terms of one to five years.

To pave the way for the water authority, a companion ordinance was introduced killing the 15 resolutions adopted by the Philadelphia Municipal Authority in 1938.

In effect, this ordinance does away with the municipal authority, which has been dormant since 1940. No new board members have been appointed to fill vacancies in the board since it was first established and virtually all of its resolutions have been carried

out by various ordinances passed by council under city improvement programs.

### C. OF C. PROPOSED

Coincident with the introduction of the ordinance to create a water authority, the Chamber of Commerce at a meeting of its board of directors unanimously passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a similar authority.

The Chamber said the authority would permit efficient operation of the water utilities by "taking them out of the hands of politicians and allowing them to be operated by businessmen. This method of operation would not only relieve the city of great portion of its debt burden, but assures needed improvement and replacement without the necessity of borrowing against the city's credit."

The city ordinance introduced to council today provided that the appointment of the authority be effective as of January 1, 1950. Both the proposed city ordinance and the proposal of the Chamber of Commerce are for an authority limited to five years.



# Speed Is Urged On Water Plan

## Ralph Kelly Says Authority Means Economy, Efficiency

Ralph Kelly, president of the Chamber of Commerce, yesterday urged City Council to pass promptly a pending ordinance which would establish a Water and Sewer Authority.

In a lengthy letter to Council President Frederic D. Garman, the chamber official called for the holding of a public hearing "at an early date." The ordinance was introduced and referred to Council's Committee on Public Works several weeks ago.

Kelly stressed that he is certain an authority would give the city and its people "all the advantages of a businesslike administration and still retain public control."

"It will relieve Council and the Mayor of the day-to-day problems of this vast utility operation," Kelly wrote, "and still keep vested in them a large measure of over-all responsibility."

"It will give us an improved water and sewer system, better water and more security against disaster, all with no risk to any city property, credit or revenues."

### POINTS TO ADVANTAGES

Kelly, in his letter, asserted that the city and its residents are committed to public rather than private control of the system. And he pointed to the advantages that setting up of authorities have brought to other governments.

Investigations by the chamber have disclosed various reasons why a publicly controlled, privately financed and independently operated authority represents "the best possible way of operating these services which are so vital to the health and well-being of every one of us."

### ONLY SURE METHOD

"First of all the authority represents the best and, to my knowledge, the only way in which we can be sure that now and in the coming years needed repairs, replacements and improvements will not be held up because funds cannot be made available promptly," Kelly emphasized.

"Repairs and replacements now urgently needed will cost in excess of \$64,000,000. An authority can raise the necessary funds quickly and in far less time than a city."

"The advantages of an authority in this respect are equally clear from the standpoint of long-term requirements. An authority can control the time and issuance of its bonds in much the same manner as does private enterprise."

### INCENTIVE FOR ECONOMY

"It can take advantage of favorable money market conditions and refund when circumstances are favorable. It will not suffer the severe handicaps concomitant with annual legislative budgets."

"Moreover, since its bonds are payable only out of water and sewer revenues, there will be every incentive to economic operation. Ends will have to be met. There will be no deficit financing."

"Finally, all water and sewer revenues will of necessity be applied only for water and sewer expenses, capital additions, or debt service and retirement."

### REPAIRS ARE NEEDED

Regarding the present system, Kelly said that it needed repairs, preventive maintenance, replacements and extensions. And, he added, the unmetered half of the city's water system has to be metered.

Action is needed promptly, he reiterated, saying that whoever is to be responsible will have to raise money, plan the work, procure materials, allocate equipment and personnel and continue the routine operations meanwhile.

"It is an amazing suggestion, coming from responsible people, that the answer to this concededly pressing and serious problem caused by delay is more delay," Kelly said.

The reasons that impel the chamber to urge the action "are grounded on a civic problem of a very vital nature which affects every resident."

## 50,000 Water Meters a Year Being Installed in Homes

By WILLIAM F. FEIST

New and re-conditioned water meters are being installed in Philadelphia homes at the rate of 50,000 annually, with prospects this figure will be increased substantially by the end of the year, Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Water Bureau, announced yesterday.

He said that during the last year, 25,000 homes were metered for the first time, about 7000 of them being new dwellings. This leaves fewer than 200,000 homes to be metered in the city-wide metering campaign.

### METERS REPAIRED

In the same period, Taylor said, 25,000 reconditioned meters were installed in homes which previously had been on meter schedule. As a result of the speed-up, the number of defective meters awaiting repairs has been reduced, although the number of such machines is still—and will remain—quite large.

"At present," said Taylor, "we have about 8000 meters undergoing repairs at the Meter Division shops. This, of course, does not represent by any means the number of defective meters."

"Complaints on defective meters each year run about 10 percent of the total installations, which means

that about 21,000 meters are in need of repairs, constantly."

### 500 FIXED IN DAY

On this basis, Taylor explained, the city reduced the overall number of defective meters by about 4000 during the last year. He said slightly more than 500 meters were repaired each working day, but that he hoped to boost this figure to 600 daily before the end of the year.

"Our chief difficulty in the past has been scarcity of parts," said the Water Bureau chief. "Parts are now obtainable in sufficient quantities to meet all demands. We hope to increase our daily output of repaired meters with 10 new plumbers, authorized by City Council."

Meanwhile, applications for new installations are continuing to come in. An ordinance of City Council provided that householders applying for meters prior to last Nov. 1 would automatically go on metered water service this year.

### REQUESTS CONTINUE

"That provision," he said, "resulted in a flood of applications. We are still working on those applications, although new requests for meters have been reaching us in considerable numbers."

He said that in spite of the large number of new homes being erected here, the total number of dwellings now without meters was under 200,000 for the first time in many years.

## Charter Makers Told of Need to 'Tread on Toes'

### Commission Starts its Job with Many Ideas Proposed

The city's new Charter Commission was given a formal send-off, and a score of suggestions, last night as it started its job of drafting a new basic rule for Philadelphia.

The recommendations came from representatives of several civic groups at a dinner staged in honor of the commission by the Greater Philadelphia Movement. More than 600 persons, especially chosen from every field of activity, attended the affair at the Bellevue-Stratford.

Among those on hand were Mayor Samuel and nearly every city official, political leaders and representatives of business, industry, labor and community groups. Of the 15-members commission only Judge Herbert E. Millen, who is ill, was missing.

C. Jared Ingersoll, a co-chairman of the GPM, presided at the dinner and told the audience that the commission will have to "tread on some toes" to produce an effective new charter. He said, too, that once the charter is drafted it is up to the people to see that it is put into effect.

### White Urges City Manager

The suggestions heard by the guests ranged from one for the adoption of the city-manager plan of government here to the proposed elimination of the City Transit and City Architect's Departments. Also recommended was the revamping of the municipal personnel system through establishment of a strong, centralized authority.

Thomas Raeburn White, one of the authors of the 1919 charter now in effect, urged the Charter Commission to consider the city-manager plan. The present "strong mayor" type, he pointed out was adopted here in 1885 when the city "had less than one million population and its annual expenditures were only a little more than \$11,000,000."

"Under the present system," White said, "it is impossible for a mayor to give a purely business administration. He is bound to recognize his political associates who assisted in electing him."

"In other words, the administration is necessarily a political administration and for that reason mistakes are made such as have been plainly disclosed in recent months in Philadelphia."

### Smaller Council Asked

In connection with the city-manager proposal, White also recommended the election of councilmen-at-large, instead of by districts, and suggested that guarantees be placed in the new charter to provide minority representation. He also asked for a smaller council, suggesting 15 as the maximum membership.

Receiver of Taxes W. Frank Marshall, he said, "put his finger on the real trouble" when he recently answered critics of his administration by saying the difficulties in his office were "due to the fact that he could not select his subordinates on the basis of merit, but was obliged to accept the recommendation of politicians."

Frank C. Roberts, president of the Bureau of Municipal Research, suggested a reorganization of the city service system with a commission composed of members nominated by the presidents of the city's leading colleges. This would aid, he said, in "divorcing the selection of a civil service commission from ordinary political considerations."

### Works Department Change Urged

A reduction in the scope of the Department of Public Works was discussed by Henry C. Beeritz, president of the Citizens Council on City Planning. He also recommended a tightening-up of present charter provisions concerning the use of capital funds for maintenance work of temporary improvements.

He suggested that a new Department of Public Utilities take over the water and sewage systems as well as transit and lighting functions. Another of his proposals was for concentration of all recreational facilities in a separate department.

Speaking on financial management, Alexander Eddle, of the Pennsylvania Economy League, suggested that the charter group consider the creation of a new Department of Finance. The new law, he added, might also require that key officials with accounting responsibilities be certified public accountants.

### Two Fields of Thought

Dr. J. C. Phillips, associate professor of political science at the University of Pennsylvania, attributed "the present spirited drive" for a new charter to "two diametrically opposed political philosophies."

One, he said, is the "spoils system" adherence of the typical party organization. The other, embraced by "good government" associations, is characterized by faith in the merit system and free participation by the people in government, he added.

The constant battle between these two fields of thought, he told the dinner audience, together with the numerous investigations and exposures within certain departments in Philadelphia, has been a vital factor in bringing the movement for a home-rule charter to its present form.

Yesterday afternoon, at its first formal meeting, the Charter Commission announced it would ask City Council for \$76,250 to finance its operation through next year. William A. Schnader, a member of the commission, said the charter drafting will probably continue through 1950.

In that case, he said, a new charter would not be submitted to the electorate until 1951.

The group appointed Paul A. Wolkin, an attorney, of 5337 Wynnefield av., as legislative draftsman at \$6,000 a year for part-time services. A former State Department official, Wolkin is an honor graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

## City to Construct New Water Plant

Plans for installation of a \$2,400,000 water treatment plant on Fox st. opposite the Queen Lane ave. filter plant, were announced by Mayor Bernard Samuel yesterday.

Construction of the plant will begin immediately, it was announced as the mayor signed a contract with Progressive Builders, Inc. The contract provides for construction of chemical equipment in connection with the existing plant on Fox st., and a six-story administration building.

Contracts for construction of a chemical building and for equipment will be awarded before completion of the present contract.

### PLANS FOR BUILDING

The proposed chemical building will house chemical handling equipment, storage bins and modern chemical feeders to be used in connection with the Queen Lane filters. Tunnels under Fox st. will connect the existing plant. There will be concrete basins and mixing equipment which will settle and remove filth from the water to be distributed from the plant.

The project is one of the most important in the water filtration plan. The preliminary treatment

Continued on Page 10, Column 4

## City to Construct New Water Plant

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Continued From First Page

plant will receive Schuylkill River water, from which heavier particles have been settled out in a pre-sedimentation basin, prepare it for sand filters and deliver it in a more satisfactory state of purification than was possible under former methods.

The chemical building will allow the use of alum or other chemicals for the application of odor and taste-removing treatment to city water. This type of treatment also sterilizes the water against disease germs. Modern equipment for air handling of all solid chemicals and records of flows and treatments are to be included in the plant, design of which was approved under the city's water works improvement program, begun in 1940.

The area served by the Queen Lane project lies west of Broad st. and south of Hunting Park ave. There also is service to the north and east, and much of the water mixes with the Roxborough and Oak Lane (Torresdale) supply.

The plant will have a normal rated capacity of 120 million gallons every 24 hours. Its overload capacity, however, will be 25 percent above this amount.

## Contract Signed For Water Plant

Treatment Works  
To Cost \$2,400,000

Construction of a preliminary treatment plant at the Queen Lane filter station, delayed since 1942, will finally get under way, Mayor Samuel announced yesterday.

The City has signed a contract with Progressive Builders, Inc., for construction of the plant and for the erection of two stories of an administration building at the site, Queen Lane and Fox st. The expenditure is \$2,400,000.

Approximately \$700,000 more will be needed to complete the administration building, which will be six stories high and house chemicals and feeding equipment. Contracts for this work will be awarded in the near future.

The new treatment plant should give Philadelphians in that section of the City improved drinking water.

The plant will receive Schuylkill River water and will thoroughly prepare it for entrance to filters, the mayor said. "Increased plant output and more satisfactorily treated water will be the result," he stated.

"The plant will have a normal rate capacity of 120,000,000 gallons a day but will be capable of an overload of 25 per cent above this amount. When completed, this will be a thoroughly modern plant and will be one of the largest in the eastern United States," Samuel said.

The contract provides for the construction of tunnels connecting under Fox st. to the present plant, concrete basins with mixing equipment for chemicals and equipment for removal of settled sludge.

Bids for construction of the treatment plant were received in 1942 but were delayed because of the war.

## 12 Million Asked For City Water

Buckley Asks Council  
For Funds from Loan

A request by Director of Public Works Thomas Buckley for appropriation of \$12,000,000 of loan funds, previously set aside for improvement of the water system, was forwarded today to City Council by Mayor Samuel.

Appropriation of the funds would enable the department to go ahead with its large-scale capital improvement program of the water system, Buckley said. "The funds are to be used for all phases, from planning to construction."

Buckley also asked authorization to enter into contracts to extend the main Castor av. sewer from the end of the avenue at Delaware av. to the bulkhead line of the Delaware River.

Permission to lay water pipes in Monument av. from Ford road to City av., and along City av. to a point 1,300 feet eastward, also was asked by Buckley.

Residential development in that area makes the water pipes necessary, Buckley said.

The department has exhausted funds for improvement of Essington av. from the Delaware County line at Bow Creek to Island av., Buckley said. The project forms a part of the Industrial Highway. Buckley asked authorization to transfer other loan funds to the work.

A request by Earle N. Barber, chairman of the Redevelopment Authority, for passage of several resolutions making application for preliminary and final advances of funds from the federal Housing and Home Agency, was forwarded to Council by the mayor. He said the resolutions are "necessary steps for the city's participation in the federal program."

## Philadelphia Water Department Historical Collection

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City Charter *INQUIRER-1/20/50* 104 M 8

# Special Agency for Water Needed

Fifth of Six Articles

By Frederic G. Hyde

RECENTLY, because of New York City's desperate water shortage, commentators and cartoonists here had a chance to quip that Philadelphia water, while awful to taste, was at least plentiful. It is a rueful sort of humor at best.

For the fact remains that this city faces a water-supply problem quite as stupendous, in proportion, as New York's. Philadelphia now draws the bulk of its supply—approximately 357,000,000 gallons daily, according to the Bureau of Municipal Research—from the Schuylkill and the Delaware, and has to chlorinate and filter it to remove the impurities dumped into both sources by upstream communities.

As New York goes ahead with its program of tapping the Delaware's upper reaches to supplement its water supply, Philadelphia in turn will be forced to look to the Potomac for a new source. Eventually this is going to mean an outlay of millions for new reservoirs and aqueducts.

And, despite extensive but largely unpublicized replacements, the city has an enormous job ahead of it in installing a new system of water mains. Some of those now in use date back almost to the founding fathers, as main breaks and localized water shortages too frequently testify.

IS A job of this magnitude to be left in the hands of a city agency which, although it boasts one of the best engineers in the country and a competent staff, is still subordinate in status? That is another of the questions the City Charter Commission, now drafting a new basic law for Philadelphia, probably will be called upon to decide.

At present the Water Bureau, under Elbert J. Taylor as chief, is a division of the Department of Public Works, whose director is Thomas Buckley. In addition, the department comprises the Bureau of Highways and Street Cleaning, Lighting and Gas, City Property, Mechanical Equipment, Engineering, Surveys and Zoning, Aeronautics and the Boards of Highway Supervisors and Surveyors. Thus, exclusive of the Water Bureau, Director Buckley has his hands full.

Obviously the agency that handles the city's water supply in the future, by whatever title it is known, will need a free hand, and that means independent status, as a department in its own right.

The National Municipal League, in its "Model City Charter," does not go into detail on this point, except to provide in an appendix that "the city shall have power to own and operate any public utility, to construct and install all facilities that are reasonably needed, and to lease or purchase any existing utility properties used and useful in public service."

Philadelphia already has such power; the question is how and by what agency it shall be employed.

THE Charter Commission, if it decides against setting up a Department of Water under either a city manager or a strong mayor and council, conceivably could solve the problem by recommending that the city go back to the State Legislature for power to establish a Philadelphia Water Authority.

An authority, as opposed to a city department, would have the ability to issue its own bonds for the construction of a new water-supply system. This might be a decisive advantage, since by so doing, the city could avoid a further drain on its own borrowing capacity.

But from the viewpoint of establishing a competent city charter, free of loopholes and leaving as few loose ends as possible, a water authority could be considered a distinct drawback. In the Board of Education, the city already has one "untouchable" autonomous agency in its midst; city planners do not hanker for more.

As mentioned previously, all questions of setting up new departments, shifting bureaus from one department to another, and otherwise tinkering with the organizational structure of the city government, become academic if the City Charter Commission recommends a city manager setup.

In such a case the manager would form his own organization. Under a strong mayor, governing with council, the commission might go so far as to specify the number of departments and the jurisdiction of each.

MANY other cities, for example, have separate police and fire departments. These are now combined in Philadelphia under the Department of Public Safety. They make the department the biggest single unit in the city, in point of personnel, but the department has only a few other functions, which might be transferred to other agencies if fire and police became departments in their own right.

This might seem a purely technical question, except for one factor: the Philadelphia Automobile Club (AAA) is backing a proposal for a Department of Safety and Transportation, which presumably would take over and enlarge the functions of the present Bureau of Traffic Engineering. Such a department would have its work cut out for it in attempting to reduce Philadelphia's still tragically heavy toll of deaths and injuries resulting from traffic accidents.

Still another chore for the same department, if it were created, would be to find a solution for the

city's constantly increasing traffic congestion. Here is a problem that literally threatens Philadelphia's very life as a community.

Department stores here already are being forced to establish branches in the suburbs as the only means of retaining the trade of out-of-town shoppers who refuse to become entangled in the hopeless snarl of mid-city traffic.

The trend, if continued, may eventually leave the heart of the city (the so-called "high value" area which pays a heavy portion of the real estate taxes) little more than a shell. Halting it is a job big enough for any city department.

UP TO now, this discussion has dwelt almost wholly on the problems of the managers and administrators who would conduct the city's daily affairs under the new charter, and may have seemed to neglect the ones who constitute the people's voice in government: the members of City Council. The latter, too, appear to be in for a shuffling at the hands of the Charter Commission.

The basic questions concerning Council boil down to two: First, does that body as it is now elected provide adequate and fair representation for the great body of the voters generally? and second, should Council have as great an influence as it now wields in the administration of public affairs, as opposed to pure policy-making?

To take the second question first, because it requires less space, a City Council which meddles to any extent in administration violates a cardinal principle of American governmental theory: that of checks and balances.

Council is supposed to be the legislative branch of the government, confining itself to policy and law-making and leaving the execution, or administration, of its policies to the executive branch, the mayor and his department heads, while the courts, the third branch, settle any disputes between them and see that neither the legislative nor executive functions are abused.

UNDER a political setup which until last Nov. 8 closely approximated a one-party system, the lines of demarcation between the three had grown exceedingly dim. With a few shining exceptions, all were parts of what Treasurer Richardson Dilworth used to call "the City Hall gang."

Whether the Charter Commission can produce a lasting and effective

antidote for this unhealthy sort of amalgamation remains to be seen. The recent abrupt shift in the city's political climate may make the task seem easier—but the commission can't count on it.

Installation of a city manager form of government would be one way of restoring effective separation of functions. A simon-pure professional manager, to protect his job and his reputation, would see to it that council did not encroach on his domain as administrator.

If such a plan were adopted, the commission might also provide for a much smaller council than the present one of 22 members. This is standard practice in other major city-manager cities, such as Cincinnati, which has nine councilmen; Kansas City, Mo., nine, and Rochester, N. Y., nine.

A smaller council gives its individual members more work to do in committee, less time for politicking—and, since the prestige of the job is in inverse ratio to the number of council members, it is argued, better candidates will seek election.

IF INSTEAD of a city manager the commission were to retain the present system of a mayor and council, but give greater powers to the mayor as a means of centralizing responsibility, it would still be possible to reduce the size of council, with the effects set forth above.

Council then would become more of an advisory group—though this is something that cannot be carried too far, lest the people find they have handed over their powers to a potential dictator.

Quite aside from the place of council in the government, and the part it is to play, is Question No. 1, asked earlier. How well it represents the people is a matter that involves the basis on which it is selected, and whether any provision is made to assure the minority of some voice, regardless of how badly it has been outvoted. These topics will be taken up tomorrow in the final article of this series.

Concluded Tomorrow

## Guard Our Water Supply

Worth heeding is Judge Grover C. Ladner's warning that Philadelphia should be wary of New York's plans to help solve its water shortage problems by diverting more millions of gallons daily from the upper Delaware River and its tributaries.

The veteran water conservationist says that such a project would "rob the people of Pennsylvania and New Jersey of their rights to the water of their own watershed." It is his belief that New York should undertake a stream clearance program in the Hudson River similar to that now being conducted by Philadelphia in the lower Delaware and the Schuylkill, to ease its water difficulties.

A tri-State water pact, allocating to New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey the amounts to which each is fairly entitled, is needed for the Delaware watershed. A preliminary report on this subject by the Inter-State Commission on the Delaware River Basin suggests a three-State compact for an integrated water project in the upper Delaware to supply the metropolitan areas of New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. It calls for reservoirs which, according to Judge Ladner, would be used initially to provide a billion gallons a day for New York.

A full report by the Commission is due in August. Before it is approved, and the go-ahead signal given for new large-scale dipping into the Delaware by New York, assurance must be given that the rights of the Philadelphia area in the distribution of Delaware water are fully protected for the future.

## Metering Survey

City Council is under ever increasing pressure to keep water and sewer operating costs down and income up. The whole public improvement program depends upon keeping these facilities on a self-sustaining basis.

Universal metering would help keep operating costs down, and would make it far easier for Council to face consumers on the question of fairness of its charges. On the issue of fairness the heat on Council has grown so intense that the Director of Public Works has been asked to make a survey of the charges for unmetered service and recommend a program for complete metering of all properties.

The Director will encounter some knotty problems, but they can all be solved. Purchase of meters by the City in quantity, and systematic installation by city forces or persons working under city supervision, would probably make the work cheaper.

Metering every unmetered service is a fairly long operation, at best. The City Planning Commission has been suggesting that \$1,000,000 a year be spent on it for six years. Its plan is to assess the property owners for the cost, a method which they might welcome if it brings relief from high water and sewer rents. Such a process carries just a step further the assessment of frontage charges for laying water and sewer pipes.

City ownership of the new meters is to the essence, and that raises the question of acquiring title to the privately owned meters now in place. Perhaps the city could buy them. With depreciation written off, many of them can't be worth much any more.

## Don't Waste; First Against Water Shortage

Philadelphians haven't had to put with Dry Fridays and Save-Water Thursdays. They haven't been able to alibi a needed shave by boasting that a fuzzy face proved civic patriotism. They haven't had to stint on baths and dish-washing.

The well-advertised plight of New Yorkers has been due to an unusually prolonged period of drought. The shortage brought to public attention a long list of wasteful practices which aggravated it. The drip-drip of countless leaky faucets wastes millions of gallons in every big city. Philadelphians are as wasteful as other Americans in the use of water.

New York's plight, however, may have made many grumblers at the quality of Philadelphia's water realize the city's great good fortune in having such enormous potable resources in the two rivers that flow by its doors. No one questions that the system needs improvement, the beginning and indispensable foundation of which would be the cutting off of waste.

New York's troubles generated a nationwide scare because they raised the fear of serious depletion of the country's water resources. There was apprehension of an ominous general lowering of the water table in the underground sources. But the national situation, according to Secretary of the Interior Oscar Chapman, is reassuring. We shall never run out of water in the foreseeable future, if adequate protection measures are taken, say departmental experts.



## UNEARTHING TREE-TRUNK WATER MAINS ON VINE STREET

Frank De Felippes (left), foreman of a construction crew, and Al Tyman, a city water inspector, looking over the tree trunks which served as water mains under Vine st. for more than 200 years. They were dug up yesterday near 10th st. as work progressed on the Vine st. improvement program. Tyman holds one of cast iron pipes that served as a connection between the logs. The wood seems unharmed by the long service.

The growth of cities has created new water supply problems in the country at large. Industrial use of water has enormously increased the drafts made on underground water supplies. That is why the Federal Government is taking water conservation seriously. All its efforts are co-ordinated. Flood control, an official report says, is actually a program for the use of flood waters, and for the conservation of the water resources of the nation. When storage is used as a flood control measure an effort is made to put the stored waters to immediate beneficial use.

There are those who see in the oceans of the globe inexhaustible supplies of potable water. Distillation experiments in World War II were notably successful in yielding drinkable water.

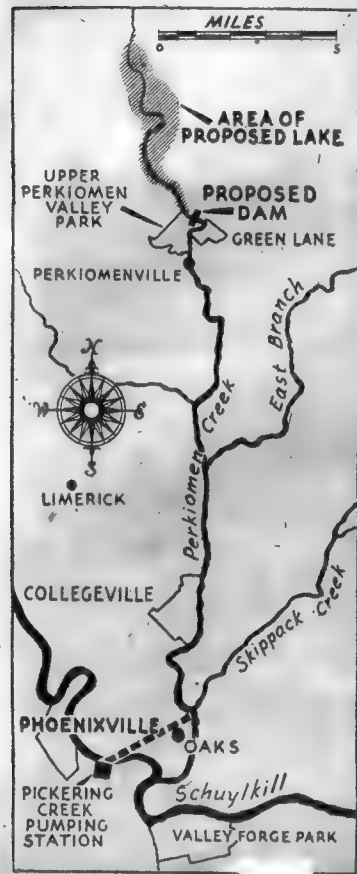
But nothing that may come in the future decreases the necessity of conserving present supplies, especially by avoiding waste.

Philadelphia Water Department  
Historical Collection  
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# Huge Perkiomen Dam Urged as Water Source



Proposed Perkiomen Creek water project. Dotted line indicates where water would be pumped from creek to pumping stations.

## Suburban Company Proposes Creation of 750-Acre Lake

Plans for a large dam in the Upper Perkiomen Valley, which would create a 750-acre lake, have been filed with the Water and Power Resources Board in Harrisburg by the Philadelphia Suburban Water Co., a spokesman for the company announced yesterday.

The dam, according to the plan, would store some 4,000,000,000 gallons of water and would give the company an additional 35 percent of water resources from which to draw for distribution for consumers throughout the Main Line area.

The company proposal was submitted as a conservation measure and pointed out that the dam would store flood waters which would be released in even flow along the Perkiomen Creek.

The overflow would run down the Perkiomen to a point near Oakes, Pa., where it would be pumped across country to the Pickering Run plant of the water company on the Schuylkill, between Phoenixville and Valley Forge. From that point it would be distributed to consumers in the company's lines.

### ROAD CHANGES NEEDED

The dam, which would create a lake some 16 miles in circumference, would cover wooded areas and farmland and would necessitate the re-routing of some secondary roads in the area, the company said. It would extend at one point into the borough of Pennsylvania.

The watershed created by the dam would extend into Upper Milford township in Lehigh county and drainage would include parts of Washington and Hereford townships, in Berks county, and Douglass, Upper Hanover and New Hanover township in Montgomery county.

## Water Company Seeks to Dam The Perkiomen

Plan Would Create 750-Acre Lake in Montgomery County

The Philadelphia Suburban Water Co. today asked state approval of a plan to build a big dam in the Upper Perkiomen Valley.

The project, as outlined by the company to the Water and Power Resources Board in Harrisburg, would result in the creation of a lake covering 750 acres above Green Lane near Montgomery County Park.

The overflow from the dam, which would block up the Perkiomen Creek, would run down the valley to a point near Oakes. From there it would be pumped cross-country to the company's Pickering Creek plant on the Schuylkill River, between Phoenixville and Valley Forge, and then distributed to consumers throughout the Main Line.

The proposed lake would cover farmland and wooded areas. A spokesman said the company owns a large section of the land and some farmers would be forced to evacuate their properties.

Also, some secondary roads would have to be rerouted, the company said.

To the north, the watershed would extend into Upper Milford Township in Lehigh County. In addition, the drainage area would include parts of Washington and Hereford Townships, in Berks County, and Douglass, New Hanover and Upper Hanover Townships, in Montgomery County.

The lake would be filled by the waters from many small streams which flow into the Perkiomen at points north of Green Lane.

The company's application comes after a survey of more than 18 months, the company said.

## Main Break Halts Traffic In Northeast

Illustrated on Page 12

Hurling tons of debris into the air, a 48-inch high-speed water main burst in Devereaux st. just west of the Roosevelt blvd. at 4:20 A. M. yesterday, spilling hundreds of thousands of gallons of water over a wide area.

The break was in a five-mile-long feeder line running from the Lardner's Point Pumping Station along the Delaware River in Tacony, to the Oak Lane Reservoir, at 5th st. and Chelton ave.

### NONE WITHOUT WATER

No properties were left without water, according to Rene A. Leaf, district superintendent for the Bureau of Water. The supply to the reservoir was maintained through a 30-inch main which also runs under Devereaux st., about 20 feet south of the 48-inch line.

The pressure ripped a cavity 15 feet long, six feet wide and about 20

Continued on Page 14, Column 3

## Main Break Ties Up Boulevard

Continued From First Page

feet deep in a grass terrace that divides Devereaux st. into dual traffic lanes. The water, geysering 12 feet into the air at the outset, ran for two hours and 10 minutes before two emergency crews supervised by Leaf cut the pressure by closing a series of valves on each side of the break.

### WATER BLOCKS BOULEVARD

Roosevelt blvd., main traffic artery between this city and New York, was blocked as water and debris cascaded down the Devereaux st. grade, carrying tons of rock and dirt. At the peak of the trouble, the water reached a four-foot depth on the boulevard for two squares in both north and south directions. Only a single traffic lane at the extreme eastern side of the boulevard was open to traffic.

Northbound traffic was shunted to this single lane while southbound traffic was diverted into Bustleton ave., north of the trouble area. Park Guards, dispatched from the Hunting Park barracks, found a half dozen vehicles stranded along the Boulevard as the water rose high enough to stall their motors. Bus lines using the Boulevard were rerouted around the flood.

### CELLARS FLOODED

The water flooded the cellars of five homes on the southern side of Devereaux st. and undermined 300 feet of concrete highway leading from the point of the break to Roosevelt blvd. The damage under the lawns of the homes facing the break is extensive, according to preliminary tests.

Leaf said the break occurred where the line crosses a filled-in railroad cut. The made ground, Leaf said, washed out beneath the pipe, causing it to sag, then break. Leaf said the line broke at the same point about a year ago but damage then was not so extensive.

Morton Gerofsky, 19, a clerk at the 30th st. Postoffice, said the break occurred shortly after he arrived at his home, 1542 Devereaux st., from work. Gerofsky said there was a

"sharp popping" sound, then he heard a torrent of water. He thought it was a cloudburst, looked out the window and saw water geysering from the highway terrace in front of the home of Louis Smith, at 1546 Devereaux st.

### PHONES ELECTRICAL BUREAU

Gerofsky telephoned the Electrical Bureau. Within a few minutes at least 20 more calls came into City Hall.

Red car patrolmen Frederick Arndt and Daniel Abt, of the Rising Sun ave. and Benner st. station, first policemen on the scene, said the water was towering 12 feet into the air from a five-foot hole in the terrace when they arrived.

The water in Devereaux st. was then five feet deep, cascading toward Roosevelt blvd., swirling at a terrific pace. A sedan parked in front of the home of Richard J. McCarthy, at 1564 Devereaux st., was carried along by the flood until it rammed into another car.

### TRAFFIC DETOURED

The flood boiled over the southern pavement onto the lawns of dwellings at the eastern end of the block. Cellars were flooded at the Smith and Gerofsky homes as well as those of Mrs. Pauline Guanere, at 1576; Arthur Bloch, at 1574, and Michael Poluchuck, at 1572.

As the boulevard became impassable, Park Guards, under the command of Sgt. Edward Paul, shunted traffic around the area. At its worst, the flood covered the boulevard from Lardner st. on the south, to McKinley st. on the north. Some of the stalled cars were at the scene until 7 A. M. Among them was a towing truck that was hauling a sedan that had figured in a collision.

### HOUSEHOLDERS WARNED

At the outset of the flood, Leaf's men and police officers went through the block warning householders to check their heating plants, some of which burn illuminating gas. Later in the day emergency crews of the Philadelphia Gas Works Co. check-

ed the area to see if gas mains had been damaged.

Storm sewers were not capable of handling the overflow and streets were still awash hours after the break occurred.

Two crews, working under Leaf, finally cut the pressure but not before thousands of tons of water had rampaged through that section. One crew closed a series of valves, working westward from Frankford ave., about a mile east of the break, while a second crew worked from Loretto ave., just westward of the trouble spot.

Leaf explained that this is a direct high speed pressure line to the Oak Lane Reservoir so therefore no properties were affected. The paralleling 30-inch line is the water source for that area, he said.

DR GRAHAM explained that chemicals such as phenol cause Philadelphia water to taste badly at times. Carbolic acid belongs to the phenol group. Ozone oxidizes it, that is, it destroys the odor by changing the chemical compound of phenol, joining it with oxygen.

"Although the use of oxygen in water has been known for a long time I believe Philadelphia is the first city to put it into large scale usage," said Dr. Graham, whose office in the Academy is a branch of the U. S. Geological Survey. "Research workers have done marvelously in the development of ozone."

Dr. Graham said an underground source of supply for drinking water was not a favorable prospect in the Philadelphia area today as a substitute for river water.

He said the supply of ground water is vital to the industrialists in this area. Extensive research is being conducted by the Geological Survey to determine the quantity and quality of the underground water supply; whether it can be used by firms in their manufacturing processes, their cooling and, in some cases, for drinking.

"The most serious problem in the world today is conservation and the basis of all good conservation is water," said Dr. Graham. "With a good water supply you can have almost anything on earth."

Concluded Tomorrow

## Authority Asked To Handle Water For Three States

BULLETIN 1/27/50

Incodel Seeks Power To Make Early Plans Pending Legislation

Creation of a Delaware River Water Commission, as the first step in a long-range plan to solve the water problems of metropolitan New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia, today was asked of the governors of three states.

Under the plan, it was said, the metropolitan centers could be supplied with 1,500,000,000 gallons of water daily, sufficient to meet foreseeable needs for the next 50 to 100 years.

The initial phase of the project, to serve New York and northern New Jersey, would cost an estimated \$500,000,000 to \$600,000,000. The Philadelphia end of the project would come later. No cost estimate for that was announced.

The recommendation was submitted to Governors Dewey of New York, Driscoll of New Jersey and Duff of Pennsylvania by the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, whose office is here. Incodel has advisory powers only, but the new commission would have power "to plan, finance, construct and operate an integrated water project."

### Wants Temporary Authority

It was proposed that pending creation of the new authority by law, Incodel be "empowered to act as a temporary Delaware River Commission" so that plans for construction and financing can be started.

The nub of the long range program is construction of a series of reservoirs that would maintain an even flow in the Delaware, even during a drought. This, the Incodel report said, will have marked advantages for Philadelphia, even though the city does not immediately draw increased supplies from the Delaware.

"Special benefits from the project will accrue to the heavily industrialized sections of Pennsylvania and New Jersey between Philadelphia and Wilmington," the Incodel report said.

"This area is particularly vulnerable to the devastating effects of the encroachment of brackish water from the oceans in seasons of deficient rainfall. The proposed program provides for the release of large quantities of impounded water to prevent such occurrences. Its operation will go a long way in eliminating the current damage to manufacturers due to salinity. These are estimated to amount to as much as \$1,000,000 a year on the average."

### Northern Needs

New York and northern New Jersey, the report said, will need new water resources to supply about 450,000,000 gallons a day within the next 50 years.

"There is immediate need for increasing the dry weather flow (of the Delaware) at Trenton," the report noted. It was recommended that the flow of the river at that point be doubled, bringing it up to 4,000 cubic feet a second, or enough to supply about 500,000,000 gallons daily.

## Ladner Assails Incodel Plan To Supply Water For New York

Judge Grover C. Ladner, of Orphan's Court, is today definitely opposed to a project to divert 400,000,000 gallons of water a day from the Delaware River to help solve New York City's water shortage.

The \$540,000,000 plan is part of a program of reservoir and aqueduct construction recommended by engineers of Incodel, the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin. It is designed to solve water problems of both New York City and the Philadelphia metropolitan area.

Addressing a dinner meeting of the Water Resources and Pollution Committee of the Greater Philadelphia-South Jersey Council at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel last night, Judge Ladner said he could see no reason why Philadelphians should surrender their rights to the waters of the Delaware.

Francis A. Pitkin, chairman of Incodel and executive chairman of the state planning board, criticized Ladner at last night's meeting for his "ill considered" statement on the project. "Either Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey enter a co-operative compact to solve this problem," Pitkin asserted, "or we are inviting the federal government to step in with its own solution."

### Urges Hudson Project

"New York City should undertake a stream clearance program on the Hudson similar to the one Philadelphia is now conducting on the Schuylkill," the judge declared. "This would provide an adequate answer to New York City's water shortage problem."

There could be no reduction in her allotment except by re-negotiating a new compact. "I am not naive enough to believe that New York, which could also seriously over-estimate what the watershed of the Delaware will produce, would consent to a new compact after Pennsylvania and

New Jersey had given her the power in an original compact to make her own estimates," Ladner declared.

Pitkin replied that no compact exists as yet, and that a full appraisal of the problem would be impossible until the results of a 19-year study of the compact plan are made public in August.

## Guard Our Water Supply

Worth heeding is Judge Grover C. Ladner's warning that Philadelphia should be wary of New York's plans to help solve its water shortage problems by diverting more millions of gallons daily from the upper Delaware River and its tributaries.

The veteran water conservationist says that such a project would "rob the people of Pennsylvania and New Jersey of their rights to the water of their own watershed." It is his belief that New York should undertake a stream clearance program in the Hudson River similar to that now being conducted by Philadelphia in the lower Delaware and the Schuylkill, to ease its water difficulties.

A tri-State water pact, allocating to New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey the amounts to which each is fairly entitled, is needed for the Delaware watershed. A preliminary report on this subject by the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin suggests a three-State compact for an integrated water project in the upper Delaware to supply the metropolitan areas of New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. It calls for reservoirs which, according to Judge Ladner, would be used initially to provide a billion gallons a day for New York.

A full report by the Commission is due in August. Before it is approved, and the go-ahead signal given for new large-scale dipping into the Delaware by New York, assurance must be given that the rights of the Philadelphia area in the distribution of Delaware water are fully protected for the future.



## eting Will Discuss Tapping Delaware River to Aid N. Y.

A project to divert 350,000,000 gallons of water a day from the Delaware River to help solve New York City's water shortage problem will be discussed tonight at a meeting of the Water Resources and Pollution Committee of the Greater Philadelphia-South Jersey Council. The plan is part of a \$540,000,000 program of reservoir and aqueduct construction recommended by engineers of Incodel, the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin. It is designed to solve the water problems of both New York City and the Philadelphia metropolitan area. Judge Grover C. Ladner and

Charles Haydock will discuss the program at the meeting in the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Judge Ladner will review the legal angles and Haydock, a water engineer, will cover the technical aspects.

Representatives of New York City's Water Supply Board and members of Incodel will attend.

Also to be discussed is the proposed development of hydro-electric power on the Delaware. The Delaware River Development Corporation of New Jersey has asked the Federal Power Commission for a

one-year permit to make preliminary surveys.

J. Harry LaBum, committee chairman, explained that such power would be produced through construction of three dams and power plants at sites near Tocks Island, N. J.; Belvidere, N. J., and another between Easton, Pa., and Phillipsburg, N. J.



### TORRESDALE FILTERED WATER PUMPING STATION

This new station, located a State Road and Ashburner Street, was officially opened on Friday, November the 4th and in the absence of President Anderson, Chairman of the Board Clarence E. Bertolet represented the Chamber at the Dedication Exercises.

The opening of this station marks the completion of a project, which was started in 1929 when steel pipe distribution lines 72" and 93" in diameter were laid in Kensington to the Torresdale Filter Plant. The contracts for the equipment were awarded in 1941, but due to World War II, the work was deferred, and it was not until 1949 that construction started on the pumping station.

The station will contain pumps having a total capacity of 215 million gallons daily. Pumps are centrifugal type, electric motor driven, served by purchased power of 13,200 volts. Water for their suction is received from a concrete dual conduit 6 feet by 23 feet each. The pumping units are of the following capacity: 4 at 40 Million Gallons Daily—1750 H.P.—2300 Volts 2 at 20 Million Gallons Daily—900 H.P.—2300 Volts 1 at 6 Million Gallons Daily—560 H.P.—2300 Volts 3 at 3 Million Gallons Daily—250 H.P.—2300 Volts

The first six units have a rated head of 200 ft. and will be used to pump filtered water into the Kensington and Central City areas. The other pumps will be used to pump filtered water into the northeast section of the City.

The station, a brick structure, with a glazed terra cotta interior, is approximately 180 feet long by 120 feet wide. The pump pit extends about 35 feet below the ground, and the superstructure rises about 45 feet above the ground. The total cost of the work is approximately \$1,683,000.

The station will be operated in conjunction with the Lardner's Point Pumping Station, thereby providing additional capacity.

The NorEASLER

## FPC in Urged to Reject Delaware Power Project

The Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin (Incodel) yesterday asked the Federal Power Commission to reject an application for a preliminary permit for the proposed development of a hydro-electric power project on the Delaware River.

The application, filed by the Delaware River Development Corp., Jersey City, has requested permission to make survey plans and estimates for the project, to be located on the river in Sussex and Warren counties, N. J., Monroe, Northampton and Pike counties, Pa., and Orange county, N. Y. The preliminary permit would not authorize construction of any facilities.

James H. Allen, Incodel's executive secretary, pointed out in a letter to

the FPC that his agency now is making a detailed engineering study for utilization of the waters of the upper Delaware and claimed that any studies made by the New Jersey corporation would be "wasteful duplication of effort and unnecessary."

He added that "if any hearings are to be held in this matter, we desire an opportunity to be heard."

The New Jersey corporation has proposed construction of three dams and power houses at an estimated cost of \$47,000,000.

## Save Philadelphia's Water

RECENT statements from the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, through its secretary, James Allen, have appeared to indicate that body favors the scheme concocted by New York City to steal the Delaware River water near its source in New York State to insure the metropolis of an adequate supply, so this year's experience of a dire shortage will not be repeated.



Judge Grover C. Ladner

But such a device must not be permitted and Judge Grover C. Ladner, whose deep interest in the issue has brought the facts to the public's attention, is justified fully in waging a fight against this maneuver. His reply to Allen, in which he points out that the plan is not one that can be formulated and put into effect privately, should warn the interstate group that its actions are being watched closely.

Judge Ladner's suggestion that New York construct a dam above Poughkeepsie to build a supply of water from the Hudson River, is a logical one. The Hudson is New York's own river and its waters do not supply the needs for many communities in two States, as the Delaware serves both Pennsylvania and New Jersey. There is no sensible point in robbing Philadelphia and the other communities in the Delaware Valley solely for the selfish purpose of providing adequate supplies for New York City.

The water problem long has been a difficult one to solve. Philadelphia's full supply from two rivers has provided for all its necessities, but if that supply is to be threatened because of the self-interest of a city that has been derelict in modernizing its own system until drought brought it forcibly to its people's attention, adequate action should be taken.

Judge Ladner's rebuke to the Incodel secretary in reply to his criticism of the jurist's views is well taken, and in the future it might be well for this body, or any public board, to take the people into its confidence and obtain an expression of opinions before even mapping a definite program. Philadelphia needs the Delaware's waters and should fight to prevent their theft.

THE CHARTER COMMISSION looked into the future in drafting the departmental section which sets up a separate water division. There is no doubt the water problem has grown to a point where it deserves departmental, rather than bureau status.

What makes the question interesting is that the charter drafters saw fit to insert a clause which says that setting up a water department shall not be construed as preventing the City from creating a water authority or from contracting with a private operator to run the system.

From the beginning, the water authority idea was in the minds of the charter drafters. It was not until about a month before the final draft was published that the "private operator" clause was inserted.

Last year, there was general speculation about a water authority. Now, the conjecture turns to private operation more strongly, similar to the lease of the city-owned gas works to the Philadelphia Gas Works Co.

Things just don't happen without good reason. Perhaps some one knows something.

## Philadelphia Water Department

### Historical Collection

2004.019.0030B

## Taylor Supports Tri-State Water

Says Incodel Plan  
Would Benefit City

Philadelphia would receive benefit from otherwise wasted flood waters under the proposed tri-State program for the Delaware River, Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Bureau of Water, said today.

"Water is becoming an important commodity from the standpoint of conservation," Taylor declared.

Under the plan of the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, he said, excess flood waters that now "run down to the sea and don't do anyone any good" would be stored for use during the annual periods of dry weather low flow.

Incodel engineers have recommended a \$540,000,000 program of reservoir and aqueduct construction, one feature of which would relieve New York City's critical water shortage. The plan has been opposed in some quarters as dangerous to Philadelphia's water supply.

Taylor dismissed this criticism, stating that the agreement between Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey would provide for the release of water to adequately supply all three states.

Taylor described the plan as the "development of a stream system in an orderly fashion." The development would be undertaken on the Delaware tributaries in New York.

The Hudson could supply an enormous quantity of drinking water, he points out, but it is a "sick river," so full of pollution it would not be a safe source of supply from a health standpoint.

Whether the Hudson River could ever be made a safe source of supply is problematical. Dr. Graham says extensive research would have to be carried out to determine which discharges from industrial plants and sewage are causing the damage. Such a study is made in a laboratory of limnology. Limnology is the science of life in streams, lakes and ponds.

STAFF members of the Academy, under the direction of Dr. Charles M. B. Cadwallader, president, have been bringing techniques to bear on animal and plant life in streams and studying the effects of industrial and municipal wastes for several years.

Last year Dr. Ruth Patrick, chief of the limnology department of the Academy, headed an expedition to Texas to study the Guadalupe River where the E. I. du Pont de Nemours Co. is now building a nylon salt plant. Plants, snails, fishes, clams and insects were collected. Such a study goes far beyond a mere chemical analysis of the water, but establishes the normal pattern of plant and animal life in the river.

The idea of such a survey, Dr. Patrick explained, is not to determine whether the water is fit for drinking but whether it may be used for industrial purposes, for recreation and fishing. Elaborate tests of the Guadalupe fish and plant life are now being conducted in the laboratory of the Academy.

Philadelphians need have no fear of a water shortage such as struck New York recently, in the opinion of Dr. Graham. He believes that the flow of the Delaware and Schuylkill, even under minimum conditions, is more than adequate to meet the city's requirements at least for the next 50 years; "a short time in planning such things." He has faith in the ozone treatment. He says that chlorine produces a safe water but not always a palatable water.

## TAP HUDSON N. Y. URGED BY LADNER

Suggestions that New York City draw future water supplies from sources other than the upper Delaware River were renewed by Judge Grover C. Ladner today in reply to characterization of his views as "claptrap."

The Philadelphia jurist and conservationist cited proposals of New York City authorities to dam



Judge Grover C. Ladner

the Hudson River below Poughkeepsie as a permanent solution to their water supply problems.

Ladner's statement followed criticism of his recent discussion of an interim report on tri-state water supply possibilities released by the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin.

"I note that Incodel's Secretary Allen has referred to the warning in my talk before the Water Resources and Pollution Committee of the Greater Philadelphia-South Jersey Council as 'claptrap,'" Ladner said.

"Secretary Allen's complaint that I have precipitated public discussion on a proposal that had not yet been formulated comes with rather poor grace and inconsistency.

"If the proposal was so indefinite as not to permit discussion, I do not understand how he expected to sell such a 'pig in a poke' to the many high state officials with whom he recently was closeted."

"Surely he does not mean that he alone is privileged to speak on the subject."

## Standpipe Asked For Somerton

Buckley Wants City  
To Condemn Site

A program for improved water supply for Bustleton and Somerton was made public today by city officials.

Acting at request of Director of Public Works Thomas Buckley, Mayor Samuel asked City Council to authorize condemnation of about 11 acres of ground for a standpipe and a booster pumping station.

The site is generally on Tomlinson road between Bustleton av. and City Line, near the Budd plant in Somerton.

**\$150,000 Standpipe**  
Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the water bureau, said plans provide for construction of a 2,000,000-gallon steel standpipe 85 feet high and 100 feet in diameter. The cost is estimated at about \$150,000.

## Sharing the Delaware

Judge Ladner has had the courage to say out loud that the Incodel approach to dividing the waters of the Delaware may not be the best.

Incodel, a Commission containing representatives of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York, is working toward a compact under which the three States would share the Delaware. The effort is born of a desire with which many will sympathize, to keep the hand of the Federal Government out of such affairs as the States can settle for themselves.

Judge Ladner remarks that there is something irrevocable about a compact. A State which found it had made a bad bargain, perhaps because the engineering estimates went wrong, could not revise the agreement without consent of those who had made a good bargain, and usually those who have made a good bargain sit tight.

The allocation of Delaware water is presently covered by a United States Supreme Court decree which allows New York to divert some water, without conceding that it has any superior right to it, and keeps its hands on the case so any proper changes can be made.

If flexibility is desirable, the Court procedure seems to have an advantage.

Here is an important issue that seems to have two sides, though many have been assuming that it had only one. More intelligent discussion will be possible now that Judge Ladner has cited the alternatives.

## Below the Belt

The Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin—Incodel for short—is a public agency working on an enormously important problem, the development, control and conservation of the Delaware basin's resources.

It is not to be assumed that Incodel is in possession of all the wisdom on the subject, to the exclusion of everybody else, or that it couldn't make a mistake.

Judge Ladner, whose devotion to the public interest in questions of water supply cannot be challenged, and whose thoughts are always worthy of consideration, has ventured to doubt whether a compact between the interested States is the best way to decide how the Delaware waters should be shared. He stated his case in a dignified and objective manner before the Greater Philadelphia-South Jersey Council.

Incodel's reply is to brand the Judge's remarks as "claptrap," without stating what might be wrong with them unless it is that they do not agree with Incodel's views.

Incodel thereby seems to lose the first round on a foul. It will be in the public interest if in the second and any succeeding rounds Incodel trades punches strictly on the issues. Judge Ladner may be right or he may be wrong, but it will take more than name-calling to convict him of error before the bar of public opinion. It is important to Pennsylvania to protect as best it can its interest in the flow of the Delaware. This is Incodel's job. That agency might reasonably be expected to deal with criticism as if it were working with informed critics toward a common objective.



# Hope for Better Water Lies in Ozone Process

Third of Four Articles  
By C. William Duncan

**O**ZONE, used for half a century in Europe for water purification, is the hope of some local experts to rid Schuylkill and eventually Delaware River water of the obnoxious smell and taste so prevalent in Philadelphia at certain times of the year.

The word "ozone," to most of us, means the air we breathe.

Webster says ozone is a "faintly blue, gaseous form of oxygen present in minute amounts in the atmosphere." Later in the definition, Webster adds that ozone is "used commercially for sterilizing water."

Research has been responsible for developing ozone to its present point of efficiency.

The importance of research in the purification of water to be consumed by residents of large cities was brought home forcibly recently by the acute shortage of it in New York City.

Philadelphia has the world's largest ozone generating plant for water purification at the Belmont filtration plant.

Philadelphia has long been faced with the problem of seeking either new sources of water in upstate Pennsylvania at extremely high cost or improving the water from the present sources. City officials decided on the latter step.

**I**N COOPERATION with the Welsbach Corp., the city conducted a series of pilot plant tests to determine what ozone, a pure but unstable form of oxygen, could do to improve the taste and odor qualities of Philadelphia water.

When extensive two-year tests proved that the ozone process could be used effectively in producing good drinking water at a reasonable cost, the major contracts to construct the new ozone plant were awarded. The

plant was set in operation in March of last year.

Initial research in treating water with ozone was conducted in Metz, Germany. Dr. Louis Pasteur endorsed it as a purification agent by commenting: "In water we drink 90 percent of our maladies. By mixing ozone with it, microbes are destroyed and the toxins burned."

Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Water Bureau, although admitting that ozone has produced good results, is cautious about making a complete endorsement. He believes additional research and study must be carried on before he'll go "overboard" on any one treatment. He points out that activated carbon and so-called free chlorine residual are other methods.

**"O**ZONE is doing as good a job as any other means," said Taylor. "We don't know whether it will do a better job than any other means as yet. The costs must be considered. We must determine whether ozone is sufficiently superior to justify increased costs of operation."

He said the cost of constructing an ozone plant at Torresdale to treat the Delaware River water had not yet even been estimated.

Dr. Jack R. Graham, research associate of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, says New York City finds itself in its present plight because the available quantity of water to supply the populace is about the same now for 8,000,000 persons as it was a couple of centuries ago.

## Protect Philadelphia's Water Rights

A coordinated, integrated program for the development of the Delaware River Basin and for the allocation of water from the river is unquestionably needed. The agreement "in principle" reached at the recent conference between representatives of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Delaware is welcome.

Under examination at the meeting, held in the office of Governor Alfred E. Driscoll of New Jersey and attended by Secretary of Forests and Waters Milo F. Draemel as spokesman for Governor John S. Fine, was the plan offered by the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin.

The Legislatures of the four States will pass on this plan, and its details will be brought out at public hearings. In brief, it would set up an interstate commission to handle the financing and operation of a project intended to meet the water needs of 20,000,000 persons.

A four-State agreement would forestall establishment of a Federal control agency in the Delaware basin. It would also put an end to differences caused by New York's current efforts to take more water from the Delaware. It is already tapping the stream for 440,000,000 gallons a day under a Supreme Court ruling and it is preparing to take 300,000,000 gallons additional. Allocation by interstate agreement would prevent unilateral diversion of Delaware water and would obviate costly and lengthy litigation.

In arriving at any plan, however, it is essential that the interests of Pennsylvania, and particularly Philadelphia, as the largest Pennsylvania city affected, shall be safeguarded.

Proponents of the Incodel plan say that it would be to this city's advantage as it calls for a water supply of 550,000,000 gallons a day to be piped from the upper Delaware.

Before the plan is approved, it should be made certain that Philadelphia obtains its rightful share of water and that its supply is not endangered at any future time by prior rights given to New York.

Philadelphia must not only be assured of

an adequate supply of drinking water but its flow of water for industrial purposes must be guaranteed. The new steel plants at Morrisville, Pa., and Paulsboro, N. J., must have an adequate and satisfactory supply of water all the year around. So must the many other plants that will undoubtedly be attracted to this vicinity by the steel plant developments.

We do not want to run the risk of having so much water drained off from the upper river and its tributaries that the flow at Philadelphia will be diminished and the flow of tidal water with undesirably high saline content will be increased.

The Port of Philadelphia must be protected in any plan for up-river diversion of Delaware water. We do not want a plan that will favor New York and northern New Jersey to the disadvantage of Philadelphia and other downstream communities.

Although it is not in the Delaware watershed, New York City has already taken vast quantities of water from that river, and proposes to take much more. It has a river of its own, the Hudson, at its front door, but it refuses to use it as a supply source because of its "pollution." Philadelphia has had the problem of pollution in the Delaware for many years. It has met it by filtration and treatment works and by sewage disposal plants and plans for the future call for piping a supply from less contaminated sources further upstream. There seems to be no reason why New York could not make use of Hudson water by going up-river to get it.

New York's persistent efforts to increase its supply from the Delaware make it necessary for Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware to do something about it. They cannot afford to sit by while New York diverts all the water it can get away with.

A fair interstate distribution pact is the logical answer. The Incodel proposal may be the solution. But before any agreement is reached, Pennsylvania and Philadelphia should obtain expert analysis and opinion on the project, to make sure that our water needs—all of them—shall be amply and properly secured.

## Lease on Water Works Sought by Private Firm

A proposal for leasing and operation of the city water system by private interests is being prepared for offer to the Mayor and City Council by a nationally known corporation, it was learned yesterday.

John H. Ware, Jr., president of the American Water Works Service Co., Inc., a subsidiary of the American Water Works Co., said he was certain that through modern and efficient operation his company could remove the stigma of "chlorine cocktail" from Philadelphia's water.

Details have not been completed but the plan embodies working features similar to the city's lease of the gas works, with rentals going to the city's bonded water debt. The proposal would have to be approved by City Council.

Declaring that he had no criticism of the present operation of the water works and plans for future maintenance, Ware asserted, nevertheless, that through expert direction and a release of executives from political "hamstringing," the water can be improved.

Under the proposal, most of the city's 1000 Water Bureau employees, now under the Department of Public Works, could be retained under direction of new, non-political ex-

ecutives, it was said. Details affecting employees as to their pensions and wages are among many that must be ironed out before a proposal is submitted.

The companies of which Ware is the chief stockholder, now operate 150 water companies throughout the East and Middle West.

Ware said that present plans call for the American Water Works Service Co., Inc., being the operating company.

## BOARD AGAINST FLUORINATION OF LOCAL WATER

Notifies Dr. Gold It Wants More Conclusive Information

Water commissioners last night turned thumbs down on fluorination of the city's water supply at this time.

A letter was dispatched to Dr. Arthur Gold, chairman of the fluorination committee of the Connecticut Valley Dental Association, saying that the board feels that "until more conclusive information is available as to the results of these (fluorination) experiments, it does not feel that it should adopt this type of treatment."

**Decision Was Expected**  
The letter also said, however: "The board will be glad to consider the matter when more evidence is available and there is an appreciable de-

N.Y. Tribune  
4/23/51 NEW YORK

## Fluorinated Water Opposed in Jersey

Report Doubts It Prevents Tooth Decay in Children

NEWARK, N. J., April 22 (AP).—The New Jersey State Department of Health was urged today to adopt a hands-off attitude on adding sodium fluorides to water supplies to reduce dental decay in children.

The recommendation to the department was made in a report by the New Jersey section of the American Water Works Association. The report suggested that it might be better to add sodium fluoride to salt, bread and other foods or to take it in tablet form.

These possibilities should be investigated by the department but in the meantime, it should neither promote nor discourage local authorities from artificial fluorination of water, the association said.

The report asserted fluorination might be harmful in some cases. An association spokesman said it could mottle enamel on some children's teeth and might interfere with normal bone development.

It also said that industries producing pharmaceuticals and chemicals contend fluorination would definitely hinder some of their processes.

mand from the citizens of the city of Springfield for the fluorination of water to reduce dental caries."

Apprised of the contents of the letter last night, Dr. Gold said he had "no comment" to make until he officially received the letter, but indicated three things: One, that the dentists expected this decision; two, that an educational campaign would have to be conducted in Springfield so that citizens could properly be informed on the value of fluorination; and three, that Athol and Falmouth in this state have accepted fluorination of the water supply. (The letter said flatly fluorine "has not been used in any municipality" in Massachusetts.)

Water Commission Chairman Anthony P. McQuade and Commissioner Dudley B. Wallace were present at the meeting; the mayor, third member of the board, was not present. Mr. McQuade said the following letter was sent to Mr. Gold:

**Board's Letter**  
"The sole purposes of a public water supply system is to provide its users with a pure and adequate supply of water. This board makes every effort to supply good water to its consumers and to comply with the standards of purity for drinking water established by the United States Public Health Service."

"The addition of fluorine to public water supplies to reduce dental caries is being carried on as an experiment in a number of cities and towns in this country. To date it has not been used in any municipality in Massachusetts."

"The board feels that until more conclusive information is available as to the results of these experiments, it does not feel that it should adopt this type of treatment."

"The board will be glad to consider the matter when more evidence is available and there is an appreciable demand from the citizens of the city of Springfield for the fluorination of water to reduce dental caries."

## Deegan Opposes Water Lease as Private 'Grab'

BULLETIN 4/25/51  
Calls Company's Plan Bad Business for City And Warns of Haste

Councilman Cornelius S. Deegan, Jr., chairman of Council's Committee on Public Works, came out today against lease of the city water works to private management.

"A full study of any attempt by private capital to acquire the water works through the creation of an authority, or by lease to a water company, makes inescapable the conclusion that such a transfer would be unwise, contrary to any valid concept of the best interests of Philadelphia and a shameful abuse of our legislative responsibility," Deegan said.

Deegan said the American Water Works Co., which has been putting out feelers leading to private lease to the company of the city works, had acted with "unusual, if not suspicious haste" in making a bid "to grab the Philadelphia water works" following the adoption of the new city charter.

"The arresting significance of this purpose should not escape the interest of our citizens, but should alert them to the latitudes permitted by the charter" the Councilman said.

**'Not in Public Interest'**

He said he had appraised the ordinance creating a water authority for the city and is convinced that such an authority would not be in the public interest. He said the same reasons apply with equal, if not greater weight, against the leasing of the water works to a private company.

"Government cannot divest itself of its inherent and primary responsibility to such an elementary service as the distribution of water to our citizens by transferring it to vicarious hands, where the motive is profit and the monetary returns attractive," he said.

"If we are to transfer the water works to private hands, we arraign public administration of services generally, and could, with as much justification, give to syndicates formed for the purpose the operation of a broad range of public trust."

Risk Involved

"Therein lies a risk. By such devices we could encroach dangerously upon the entire realm of elected government, and conceivably damage that political and economic evenness so essential in our system of balanced government."

"Our situation has no parallel in Pennsylvania. The City and County of Philadelphia are co-extensive, unlike those counties of Pennsylvania that are made up of many small autonomous political subdivisions, each without the means individually for conveying vital services, but bound by necessity to combine with other communities in combine with other like communities in the adoption of such expedients as water companies and so forth, that are imperative to serve the people."

"Uncompromising need denies these communities any choice but to delegate their powers."

**'Fortunate Situation Here'**

"Here, fortunately, we are one geographical and social unit. We own the property and have a source of supply. The people of Philadelphia want and should have pure water, brought to them efficiently, at rates fixed by their directly elected representatives, who can be held to account for failure."

"I believe this property can be managed and public service dispensed competently and with profit, as was done in the year 1950, when the water works returned to the city treasury in excess of \$900,000 over all costs."

"I am unable to see the good business in handing to any combine such a valuable plant with the resultant loss of control of the property for the long life of that authority or under the extended terms of a lease."

Philadelphia Water Department  
Historical Collection  
2004.019.0031A



## Prompt Appraisal Wanted of Incode Water Plan

In an editorial earlier this week, The Inquirer urged Pennsylvania and Philadelphia to obtain expert opinion on the proposed Incode plan for four-State allocation of Delaware River water, to make sure that our water needs shall be properly secured.

In a letter to the Editor published elsewhere on this page, James H. Allen, executive secretary of the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, agrees that our State and city should be "absolutely certain that their interests are protected."

He states that Incode would welcome expert analysis on that score, but he makes the important point that the appraisal should be conducted promptly. Otherwise the opportunity to participate in an integrated program might be lost, as New York and northern New Jersey areas would be forced by the urgency of their water problems to proceed on their own.

In another letter to the Editor, Judge Grover C. Lader, an authority on stream conservation, also recommends that the Incode plan be examined by disinterested experts, "and not rushed through this session of the Legislature as seems to be the program."

Not only should the plan be scrutinized, but scrutinized without loss of time. For the State and city governments to do nothing about the proposal could be as injurious as rushing it to approval without examining it.

Distribution of Delaware water by four-State agreement is obviously preferable to unilateral grabs made by the States individually. What is wanted is four-State allocation that is fair to all affected areas.

The Incode proposal may be the right answer. It deserves consideration. It should neither be shunted aside nor railroaded to passage. Both the State Legislature, which is to be called upon to ratify it, and the city of Philadelphia, a major interested party, should move promptly to obtain expert opinion on the plan, to help them decide whether or not it provides the necessary protection, and whether or not it should be approved.

### INCODE PLAN DEFENDED

To the Editor of The Inquirer:

This Commission is keenly interested in the editorial in the Feb. 20th issue of the Philadelphia Inquirer entitled, "Protect Philadelphia's Water Rights."

We agree wholeheartedly with your position that Pennsylvania, particularly Philadelphia, should make sure that all of its water needs "shall be amply and properly secured" before agreeing to participate in any program for the development and utilization of the waters of the Delaware River Basin.

We are firmly convinced that the proposed integrated water project which has been formulated by Incode, adequately and equitably provides for the interests of all four States who are the proprietors of the Delaware River Basin and their political subdivisions.

The proposed four-State agreement which Incode is asking the Legislatures to approve in order to give life to the integrated water project has been carefully designed to protect and safeguard the interests of each of the participating States. The administrative commission which would be created to carry the project out would have equal representation from each State, with appointments to be made by the Governor.

Under the terms of the agreement, no allocation of water could be made to any of the respective States unless and until the proposed distribution was agreed upon by the majority of the members of the commission from each of the participating States.

The proposed project, in Incode's judgment, is especially beneficial to Pennsylvania and Philadelphia. Incode would welcome expert analysis and opinion on this score. It would point out, however, that it is essential that the project be appraised on a constructive basis and with dispatch. Otherwise areas in New York and New Jersey will be forced, because of the urgency of their problems, to meet their needs by other alternatives. If this should happen, the proposed Incode project would become inadvisable and Pennsylvania and Philadelphia would be compelled to find the answer to their water supply and stream flow problems entirely on their own.

By all means Pennsylvania and Philadelphia should be absolutely certain that their interests are protected but this should be done promptly or the opportunity to participate in the integrated program may be lost forever.

JAMES H. ALLEN  
Executive Secretary, Interstate  
Commission on the Delaware  
River Basin  
Philadelphia, Feb. 21.

### PORTTRAITS

By JAMES J. METCALFE

#### Light on the Porch

*I like a cozy little home...  
A neat and pretty lawn...  
But most of all I like at night  
... To see the porch light on  
... It seems to lend a friendly  
and ... A warm, inviting  
touch ... As though to  
whisper please come in...  
And thank you very much  
... It means the house is  
lived in and ... The folks  
may be inside ... And like us  
not, in love and petting  
They happily abide ... The  
porch light is a beacon light  
... To guide the welcome  
guest ... And greet the child-  
ren of the house ... When  
they come home to rest ... I  
like its kindly gleam but  
when ... I see it in the dawn  
... I know it is the careless  
sign ... That someone left  
it on.*

we had better go slow and be safe instead of sorry.

Worthy of note also is that the Incode plan would forego the protection of the U. S. Supreme Court decree which presently limits New York City's draft to 440 million gallons a day, with leave to Pennsylvania and New Jersey to apply for a reduction if actual experience demonstrates that allocation to be too much. Why should we give up this protection?

GROVER C. LADNER  
Philadelphia, Feb. 20.

Editor's Note: A further editorial on Incode's four-State water plan appears on this page today.

## Firm Proposes To Lease City's Water System

Says It Can Improve Supply, Treat Sewage, Step Up Collections

By JOHN C. CALPIN  
Of The Bulletin Staff

The City of Philadelphia will be offered a plan to lease its water and sewer plants to private management within a few days.

For several months, officials of the American Water Works Service Co. have been studying the municipal setup and are convinced they have a workable plan to give Philadelphia "good" water within a year.

The plan, its sponsors say, would give the City an income at least equal to—possibly greater than—the present revenue. The company's profit would come from more efficient management and better collection.

#### Native Philadelphian

John Ware, chairman of the board and president of the Northeastern Water Works Co. and the American Water Works Co., which control a network of water plants in 23 states, will be in direct charge of the negotiations with the City.

Back of the plan is the personal interest of Ware, a native Philadelphian.

Ware left Northeast High School at the age of 14, having installed an electric motor for a freight elevator and made \$189 on the job.

Today, at 63 he heads companies with a capitalization of \$240,000,000 which own or operate 126 water works and four sewerage plants and manage others owned by 14 municipalities. Thirty-five of the plants are in Pennsylvania. The remainder are scattered from Maine

Continued on Page 12, Col. 6

## Water System

Continued From First Page

to Alabama and west to Iowa and Arkansas.

Moves Back to City

Several months ago, Ware moved much of his office operations to Philadelphia, after an absence of about 15 years ago. He plans to make Philadelphia his operating headquarters.

He and his associates plan to offer the City a lease similar to that under which the Philadelphia Gas Works Co. operates the City-owned gas works.

"That gas lease is the most ingenious I have ever seen to get expert management with an incentive in work for the people," Ware said at his home in Oxford.

"We can do the same. Within a year, we feel we can give the City of Philadelphia good water, maybe in less than that. Taking on one job at a time, in three to five years, we think we can get the whole system straightened out.

#### Vote of City Council

"The first problem is to get the people to want better water. Then we'll have to sit down with all the various factions in this City to discuss the matter. We will talk to the civic agencies and the business men and the politicians.

"City Council must vote for the lease before it can become effective."

The adoption of the new city charter should facilitate a lease or a municipal authority, for a provision was written into the charter for such an event.

The charter sets up a separate water department, divorced from the present Department of Public Works.

Ware feels that a municipal authority is not the answer here, although his companies deal with several such authorities. A lease with the city directly would save money and much intermediate planning and maneuvering.

The operating company would be the Municipal Management, Inc., a subsidiary of the Ware system.

#### No Criticism

Ware refuses to criticize, for the time being, the present water and sewer management here. He does praise Director of Public Works Thomas Buckley and Chief of the Bureau of Water Albert J. Taylor.

Guardedly, and generally, he says that he does not like the political tie-ups which affect the operation of any municipal utility, not specifically Philadelphia's. He thinks such obstacles can be overcome on a business basis.

While Philadelphia does not have good water, he says, "the water quality has improved, and anyone who says it hasn't is being unfair. But it has a long way to go."

He does not foresee the use of so-called "upland water." He thinks that with the state's stream clearance program and the many improvements Philadelphia has made in its systems in recent years, that

will remain the principal sources.

#### Ought to Make Money

Ware will not discuss, at this time, the financing of the operation. Nor will he guess whether rates would be decreased or increased.

"The rate structure, however, needs overhauling in some respects," he said. "That is something that will be worked out later.

"But there is little doubt that we ought to be able to make money for the city and still earn a management fee for ourselves. This would be through more efficient methods, both of operation and management.

"No one can truthfully say, politics being what it is, that a municipal operation can compare as to efficiency with business management. That goes for every large city.

"Private utilities compete everywhere with publicly-owned utilities and make a profit. This is true despite the fact that privately-owned utilities pay high taxes, which the municipalities do not. In some cases, the taxes run to 41 per cent.

"When a state or community places a tax on a utility, of necessity, the tax is passed on to the consumer and the rates go up.

"Incidentally, Pennsylvania is one of the easiest states on taxing corporations."

#### Horse-Trading in Prospect

In working out an agreement with the City, on the basis of present debt and forthcoming bond issues on planned sewer and water improvements, Ware foresees some "horse-trading" on the rentals.

Water experts who made the last survey for the City, before the rates were raised in 1948, figured that \$9,250,000 income from water was necessary to carry all the bond interest, cost of operation and about \$17,000,000 of future expansion if the water system is to remain self-supporting.

If it does not pay its own way, the entire water bond debt would be thrown back on the general debt limit.

Ware and his associates know they must keep within these bounds. He will not discuss his proposed methods, however.

A stockholders' meeting of the American Water Works Co. was scheduled today in Wilmington, where the financial offices of the Ware system are located.

#### Drilled Water Wells

It is plain that Ware would take personal charge of the operation here, and that all his resources and the technical skill of his assistants would be used. It is a long-time dream on his part.

Starting with his first job on the freight elevator, he foresaw the possibilities of electricity. He left high school as a sophomore. At 16 he was in business for himself and, by stating that he was 23 years old, got several big jobs.

When he was 18, he was drilling water wells in New Jersey, and on his own, dug one at Cloverdale, between Millville and Vineland. A contractor was building 18 houses nearby, with the expectation that a water line would be built from

Millville. The water line was planned to pay for itself.

The water line was of forthcoming; so Ware took on the job. Borrowing a compressor and an electric motor, and getting current from a nearby trolley line, he agreed to pump them water at \$200 each.

He had his first water company. Plant Ready-Made

From then on, he branched out into electric and gas utilities, but when the "death sentence" to holding companies was passed in the 1930's he divested himself of all of them and bought successively, dozens of water companies.

Today his water interests supply 4 per cent of the population of the United States.

"If we know how to supply 6,000,000 people, there should be no difficulty in supplying another 2,000,000 in Philadelphia, with a ready-made plant," Ware says.

His whole life is wrapped up in water. To him, it is romance and a problem.

"Water is not a prosaic thing," he says. "It is the most precious possession we have."

"If we are not careful, the United States will be another China as to water supply. We no longer have the underground water supply we formerly had. Every well we drill has to be taken deeper and deeper."

## Water Meter Puzzle

# Utility Firm's Efficiency Shows Up City's Laxity

Inquired 5/9/50  
113  
Second of 3 Articles  
By Kos Semonski

ALARMED by the threat to home-owners, title company officials and real estate brokers warned here yesterday that the city should provide efficient water meter-reading service or arrange to turn the job over to private utility firms under contract.

The need for prompt action was stressed by these officials, who earlier had pointed out that the city's "inaccurate and haphazard" methods were clouding the title to many homes.

Philadelphia home-sellers, they

said, have been obliged to tie up more than \$250,000 in settlement accounts because of the city's failure to present prompt and accurate water bills.

Under proper supervision, leaders in the real estate field asserted, the city could provide adequate water meter-reading service at less cost than for the present "guesswork" system.

THE modern and efficient methods of public utility firms already operating in Philadelphia were recommended as a model for the water meter service.

As an example, these officials compared the workings of a meter reader employed by the Philadelphia Gas Works Co. and a city employee "sup-

posedly employed to do similar work."

For the gas company, they pointed out, the average reader examined about 250 meters daily, of approximately 5000 monthly. In all, the gas firm has 530,000 gas meters that are read regularly.

Only in 10 percent of the homes

he covers does the gas meter reader find residents away. In these cases, cards are left so residents may make their own reading and forward the findings by mail.

Meters missed or on which no report is made are placed on a "skip list." Special men are assigned to "call-back work" to cover these.

HELPFUL information is recorded on the account sheet carried by each gas company reader. It might be noted here that a householder frequently leaves a key with a neighbor for the convenience of the reader. Or it might be stated that readings in certain houses can be made only on certain days of the week.

According to the informants, meter readers for the gas firm are taught the quickest method to cover routes to which they are assigned and also the best manner in which to read the meters.

Salaries for these readers start at \$42 weekly and follow a scale that reaches a maximum of \$250.80 monthly.

BY CONTRAST, these officials emphasized, the city has about 280,000 water meters that must be read. A total of 31 men are employed to do this type work.

Based on the average set by the gas company workers, the informants pointed out, the municipal readers could handle without difficulty 465,000 meters four times a year. This computing still would enable the city workers to have a vacation of four weeks annually, it was explained.

However, under the present system, the official said, the city reader is unable to provide accurate figures for about half the water meters.

## Philadelphia Water Department

### Historical Collection

2004.019.0031B



# Dispute Flares On Incode Plan

## New Needs Survey Asked; Allen Charges 'Smear'

James H. Allen, executive secretary of Incode, and George G. Chandler, who argued Pennsylvania's case when the U. S. Supreme Court allocated the water of the Delaware River Basin 20 years ago, figuratively crossed swords yesterday over the Commonwealth's water needs and the fairness of the Incode plan in supplying them.

A statement issued by Allen charged that "a handful of men are now sniping at the Incode plan" with "a smear campaign" and that Pennsylvania's own counsel admitted in 1931 that New York could take as much as 600,000,000 gallons a day from the upper Delaware without jeopardizing this Commonwealth's supply.

### CALLS FOR NEW SURVEY

Chandler replied that he failed to understand what Allen meant by "smear." Chandler called in turn for an up-to-date survey by an independent engineering group to produce facts and figures more current than the "proofs" used 20 years ago when the Supreme Court allocated 440,000,000 gallons a day to New York.

"I feel that the Incode proposal deals only with water conditions of the past and the immediate future," said Chandler. "In the light of Philadelphia's anticipated boom, the building of great new steel mills in this area, for example, we must think of the future."

### 'UNWARRANTED CLAIM'

Allen said: "The criticism all simmers down to the unwarranted claim that Pennsylvania should not take part in any program, regardless of its actual merits, that will give New York any water . . . over and above the 440,000,000 gallons . . . authorized by the Supreme Court." He added that if anyone came up with a better or more equitable plan than Incode's, Incode "will gladly embrace it."

According to Allen, if the General Assembly should approve the tri-State agreement, Pennsylvania would have veto power over any change in the allocation schedule in the future.

### RECALLS 1931 RULING

Regardless of the cited veto power, Chandler insisted that a situation in which the U. S. Supreme Court has jurisdiction is far more flexible. He recalled that the Supreme Court in 1931 retained jurisdiction and held the door open for any future complaint on the part of Pennsylvania concerning this State's allocation of Delaware River water.

Once the tri-State agreement is signed, he pointed out, "then the Supreme Court undoubtedly would hold that its jurisdiction had been ousted by the compact" and would refuse to entertain any further petition from Pennsylvania.

### PLAN 'OBJECTIONABLE'

Chandler said the Incode plan, from Pennsylvania's point of view, was "highly objectionable" because it deprives this Commonwealth of three valuable present and future rights: first, the court's finding that New York is entitled to 440,000,000 daily gallons; second, the court's ruling that New York's taking of its allocated share did not give that State a superiority of right over Pennsylvania, and, third, the court's retention of jurisdiction, leaving the door open to Pennsylvania.

This State, said Chandler, has 51 percent of the drainage area supplying the Delaware, whereas New York has about 35 percent. Twenty years ago Pennsylvania asked only for 43 percent of the water. Now, he said, the Incode plan would cut that share down to about 31 percent.

"My choice," he said, "is with the Court."

## Water Billing Service Needs Drastic Revision

The chaotic conditions in the city's water meter and billing service, described in the articles by Kos Semonski appearing in The Inquirer, call for prompt correction.

Home-owners have been subjected to unfair treatment, and title to property has been jeopardized, because of errors in water bills and failure over long periods to have water meters read.

It has been brought out that in hundreds of homes in Philadelphia water meters have not been checked for years at a time. City employees apparently use guesswork figures in making out some of the bills.

Instead of checking meters regularly, as they are paid to do, certain meter readers, it is charged, supply the Water Bureau with fictional figures based on their own estimates of consumption.

In many instances second payments are demanded on bills already paid, and complaints on this score are frequently met with shrugs and no attempt at rectification. And the consumer may be listed as delinquent,

subject to fines and penalty, and face a possible title flaw when he sells his property.

Bills for excess water consumed as far back as 10 years before have reportedly been mailed to householders. Title companies have been forced to pay water bills which did not appear on Water Bureau records at the time when the title search was made. Repeated requests for meter readings have been persistently ignored, sometimes for years. To guard against the sudden presentation of new bills, home-sellers have found it necessary to set up settlement accounts totaling more than \$250,000 for an indefinite period.

If consumers were receiving this kind of service from the electric or gas companies in this city or the private water companies supplying the suburban areas, there would be howls heard from here to Harrisburg. There is no reason why the municipally operated water system should be permitted to get away with these insufferable conditions. The Mayor and Council should insist upon efficient operation.

### Water Meter Puzzle

## City's Failure to Provide Readings Brings Chaos

*Inquirer 8/8/30*  
First of Three Articles

By Kos Semonski

TITLE of thousands of home-owners to their properties has been threatened and more than \$250,000 in home-sellers' funds tied up for an indefinite period because of the city's failure to provide efficient water meter reading service, leading Philadelphia title officials charged here yesterday.

Real estate brokers joined in branding the service as "inaccurate and haphazard" and called for prompt action to end conditions in which water meters are left unread for months while city employees provide "guesswork" figures to be used in making up bills.

Because of these chaotic conditions, extending over the past 10 years, title officials said home-sellers had been required to leave more than a quarter of a million dollars in "settlement accounts" to guard against the sudden presenting of new water bills.

Other home-owners have had the title to their properties clouded by

Continued on Page 24, Column 6

the city's failure to present prompt and accurate water bills.

REPRESENTATIVES of leading title companies here, in making disclosures regarding the situation, pointed out that the city's Water Bureau had adequate personnel to do the efficient job required.

They stressed that it was mandatory for the city to make quarterly readings of the meters. But, they added, the city seemed unable to provide even once a year, the simple and efficient meter reading service given each month to users of gas and electricity.

According to the title companies' spokesmen, the frozen funds in the home-sellers' accounts could be promptly distributed if only the meter-reading requests, made by property owners preparing to sell and by title companies anxious to check titles, were met.

These spokesmen also explained that conditions had become so bad that officials of many of the title companies visited Receiver of Taxes W. Frank Marshall "to ask for relief." They claimed that they were promised action, "but none came."

TO PROTECT the buyer against charges for excess water that may have been consumed by the previous owner, the sum is withheld and placed in the settlement account. For the average house it is \$25. For commercial and industrial properties larger amounts are held.

Daily requests for special water meter readings are sent by messenger to the Water Bureau by the title companies, it was pointed out. If and when the reading is made, the city is paid the adjusted amount and the remainder of the money in the account is returned to the home-seller.

The title companies representatives said some requests were met within a reasonable length of time, but that these were "very much in the minority."

One title company official estimated that it took three to six months for the minority to be settled. The rest of the accounts have to be kept alive for "maybe a year, two years, seven years or even longer," he added.

In some instances, it was said, the special meter reading report arrives years later and the seller of the property no longer can be located. The account must be kept open and after a lapse of years, the State institutes escheat proceedings.

AN OFFICER of the Broad Street Trust Co. said that a new program was under way in which attempts were being made to impress a new property owner with the importance of the special meter readings.

He said the new owners were being asked to make repeated requests to the Water Bureau for such readings. "We haven't been able to do anything in the situation," he stressed. "Our patience has been taxed for years."

"We have contacted the Receiver of Taxes and asked for relief. We were told that 10 men would be assigned to special meter reading tasks. This promise was made months ago, but the same practice continues."

"In my years of experience handling settlements, I am convinced there are hundreds of homes in Philadelphia where meters have not been read for years at a time."

## Meter Reading By Utility Urged

City Controller Joseph S. Clark, Jr., yesterday declared that the administration of water meter reading in Philadelphia had broken down and advocated that the job be turned over on a contract basis to a private utility.

His criticism of the meter division came as a result of a series of articles in The Inquirer, and was made in a letter addressed to Frederic D. Gorman, president of City Council; W. Frank Marshall, Receiver of Taxes, and Thomas Buckley, Director of the Department of Public Works.

### RAPS 'INEFFICIENCIES'

Inefficiencies of the agency, Clark said, were "disgraceful."

"Let us frankly admit that administration of meter reading has completely broken down and that current political conditions make it impossible to install normal efficiency in this division of the Bureau of Water. I suggest that defeat be acknowledged and the job turned over to a private utility corporation on a contract basis," he charged.

Clark pointed out that the average employee reads 75 or 80 meters a day, while an employee of either the Philadelphia Gas Works or the Philadelphia Electric Co. makes 250 to 300 meter readings per day.

"Of course, an able administrator with a free hand could remedy this condition in short order," he stated. "Employees would be placed under an honest merit system, adequate supervision would be provided and minimum standards of performance would be required."

Since the number of meter installations is increasing at the rate of nearly 25,000 per year, the city's problem, it was warned, will become even more difficult.

A GREAT deal of the blame for gross inaccuracies in records was placed on the system of appointing political followers "who even before they begin their jobs have made up their minds to give the citizens as little of their time as possible," real estate brokers said.

One of the many examples cited pointed glaringly to their charges that "meter readers read meters only when they want to."

In this instance it was necessary

for a title firm to obtain quickly a special reading of the meter at the Kensington Postal Substation E.

Many weeks elapsed, and the information was not forthcoming. In desperation the head of the title department telephoned the Water Bureau to complain.

The clerk in the bureau then checked the record on the requests and returned to the telephone to tell the executive that the card stated the meter reader visited the property three times, but on each occasion was unable to get in.

The postal station, however, is open daily from 8 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. for its regular business.

TWO weeks ago a city employee visited an Olney home and threatened to shut off the water supply, asserting the owner failed to pay his bill for 1933.

Allan L. Fagerstrom, of 126 Wentz st., the occupant and owner for 35 years, produced his receipt for that year. He also pointed out to the water bureau representative that in his case the bill was paid twice, once by his wife and once by himself, when a duplicate bill was mailed to the house some time later.

Fagerstrom added that when he discovered the double payment, his wife went to City Hall Annex and after several hours of arguing succeeded in obtaining a refund.

THREE days later, the property owner continued, he received a telephone call from City Hall, demanding that the money be paid immediately.

"We want those taxes and we want them right away," the caller insisted.

When Fagerstrom replied that he had a receipt for the payment and that he had shown it to a Water Bureau representative the City Hall man declared the receipt was "fraudulent and no good."

The Olney home owner then asked the caller to identify himself. But this was refused with the warning that unless the bill was paid in the next few days, it would be listed as delinquent and the water turned off.

THE vice president of the Wyoming Trust Co. said his attention had been called to a large number of similar complaints from residents of the 42nd Ward.

Many accounts in this district have been reopened and bills for past years are being only now sent to owners who purchased their homes recently. The home owners, carrying title insurance, submit bills to the bank's title department for payment.

Since many of the bills are older than five years, the bank executive said he doubted that the title department could be held responsible.

Many of the property owners, rather than argue with City Hall clerks for hours, have paid the bills, even though legally they did not have to.

The banker stressed, however, that the records of the bureau were checked by expert search clerks before the title insurance was issued, and no delinquencies were found to exist at the time.

SURVEYS and recommendations for the efficient operation of the Water Bureau have been made almost regularly over a long period of years.

Some of the expert suggestions have been taken and many have been ignored.

In the various investigations the experts have found fault with the system and with the personnel, crediting only a few of the employees with being conscientious in their efforts to provide a satisfactory service, a real estate broker said.

"But the few who do give a day's work for a day's pay," he added, "can't overcome the inefficiency of the 'drones.'"

THE last expert advice given city officials in connection with the bureau's system of accounting came after an extensive survey in 1948 by Charles Haydock, a consulting engineer.

In his final report, Haydock made the charge that "the accounts of the Water Bureau are not kept in accordance with generally accepted methods of water works accounting, so that the operating results cannot readily be compared with other water systems."

His criticism came only a short time after Elbert J. Taylor, chief of the Bureau of Water, declared the city was losing \$200,000 annually from faulty water meters and cheating on the part of private and industrial property owners.

The loss was attributed by Taylor to the infrequency of inspections and he admitted the city had no system for a periodic check.

Title company executives, their search clerks and many real estate brokers declared that unless better administrators are placed into key positions in the Bureau of Water, Philadelphia would continue to provide an inefficient and inaccurate meter reading and billing system.

The End



## Water Meter Puzzle

# Thousands of Gauges Lost in Repair Shops

Last of 3 Articles

By Kos Semonski

**T**HOUSANDS of water meters removed from homes to the Water Bureau's shops at 29th and Clearfield sts., for repairs, have been "lost," title company executives, real estate brokers, and home-owners declared yesterday.

Search clerks, charged with the responsibility of checking into such matters when the title firm is liable, explained to their superiors that the records on the disposition of these meters failed to indicate what happened and sometimes no records could be found at all.

This, in addition to the inefficient "guesswork" meter-reading system, has forced title companies to keep more than a quarter million dollars in home-sellers' funds tied up in thousands of frozen settlement accounts.

**W**HILE home-owners wait for months and often years for a special reading, or the return of the meter, the title to their properties is technically clouded, it was reported, unless the bureau's records are accurate.

The bureau's operation, however, has been charged with being so inefficient and its records so muddled that one title company has discussed a plan under which it would not insure the home-buyers against unpaid water bills.

Other companies have discussed the same matter and reported they too may soon take such action unless the bureau's "guesswork" figures are replaced promptly with accurate ones.

**A** VICE president of the Wyoming Trust Co. said the problem of finding "lost" meters is a serious one, since his firm insures the water meters for the home-buyer.

Many persons have found that once the meter was removed, it frequently became "lost," and no amount of searching through records could establish where or how it "disappeared."

One of the problems, a city official explained, has been the difficulty the bureau has had in keeping abreast of repair work.

A shortage of parts during the war built up a backlog of 40,000 broken meters.

In June last year, John J. Stapleton, general chairman of the legislative and civic affairs committee of the Philadelphia Real Estate Board, charged that 50,000 water meters were held in the repair shops.

While figures for this year were not available, it generally was conceded that the number is even greater.

## NEW CITY AIRPORT WON'T BE READY UNTIL MARCH 1

Construction Delays May  
Hold Up Opening Till  
April 1

Construction of the Northeast Airport has run into unexpected delays and the field probably will not be ready for airline service until March 1 or even April 1.

Director of Public Works John H. Neeson told City Council yesterday that the city and the Civil Aeronautics Administration are having difficulty in obtaining equipment necessary to finish the airport.

### Priority Status Changed

Materials for the field, originally given a military priority rating, have been changed to a civilian status, Neeson explained, with the result that delivery of cast iron pipe, sewer pumps, and radio equipment is likely to be delayed two months or longer.

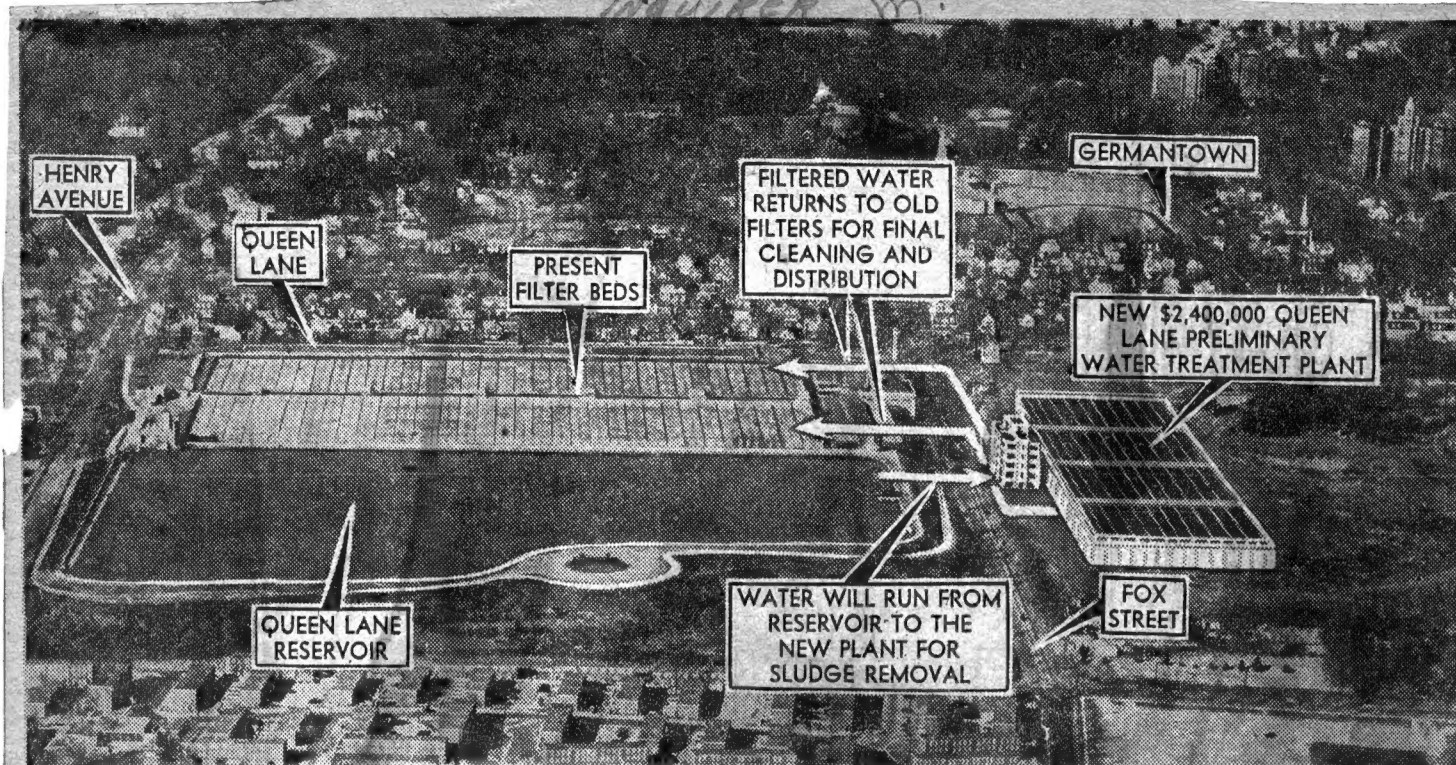
City—and airline—officials had hoped the new field could be opened for service by December 23, a year after the Federal Government closed the Municipal Airport in Southwest Philadelphia because of nearby military hazards. Neeson said that appears now to be out of the question.

As for the Municipal Airport, Neeson said it may not be reopened for civilian flying until six months after the war ends. He was unable to say what the relative roles of the Municipal Airport and the Northeast field will be in Philadelphia's postwar aviation picture.

### Appropriations Promised

Neeson appeared before Council yesterday in connection with the budget hearings. Council cut the payroll appropriation for the closed airport from the \$81,950 proposed to \$30,950, based on actual costs of the past year. Councilmen gave assurance, however, that they will act promptly in appropriating necessary personnel and maintenance funds for the Northeast Airport when the time comes.

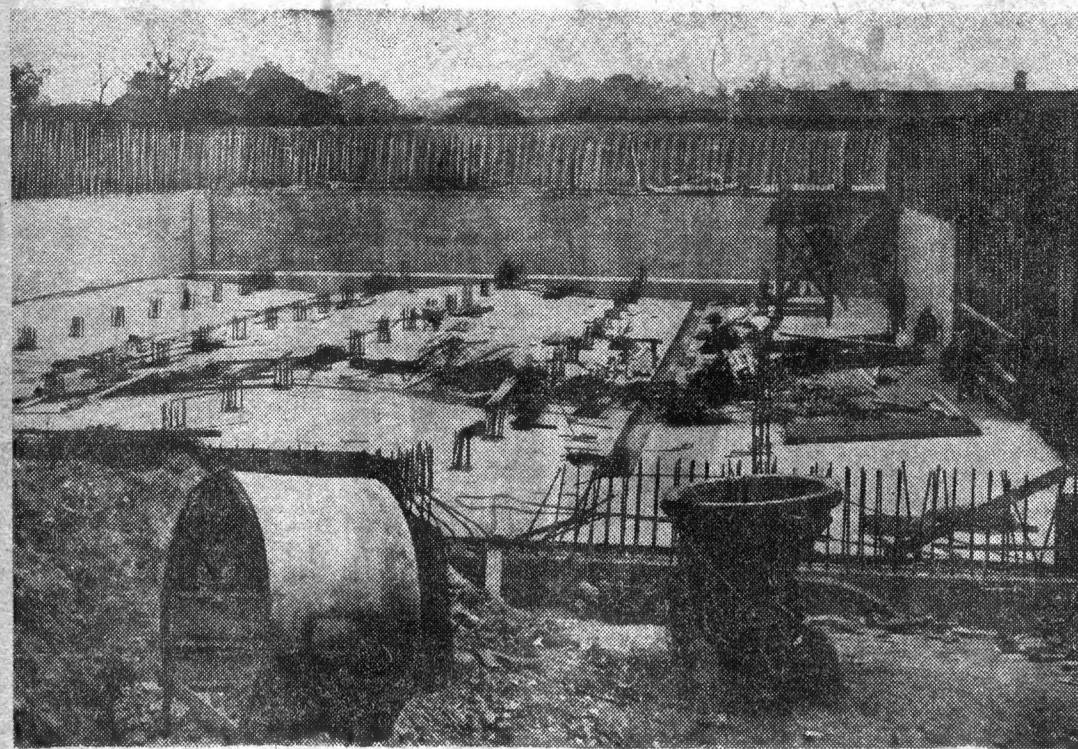
A \$50,000 item for ground rent to the Federal Government on the Municipal Airport site was eliminated because \$90,000 is available in unexpended funds toward meeting the \$38,000 quarterly payments.



## WORK PROGRESSING ON NEW TREATMENT PLANT AT QUEEN LANE

Upper photo-diagram shows a general view of the Queen Lane pumping station. The present reservoir and the connecting filter beds are at the left. When the projected two-story preliminary treatment plant (at right) is completed, water will be drawn from reser-

voir and chemically treated before it is pumped into the filter beds. Three tunnels (indicated by arrows) will draw off the water and return it to either end of the beds. Below is shown lower basin in the new plant, the upper section of which has not been started.



LOWER BASIN OF PLANT UNDER CONSTRUCTION

## Queen Lane Plant 25 Pct. Completed

Work on the preliminary-treatment plant at the Queen Lane pumping station, only one of its kind in this area, is about 25 percent completed, according to G. Edwards Sheldrake, filter plant supervisor for the Bureau of Water.

When the \$2,400,000 plant is completed next year, it will have a normal rated capacity of 120,000,000 gallons of water every 24 hours. It will, however, be capable of an overload of 25 percent—or 30,000,000 gallons a day—above that amount.

### BEDS FILL WITH SLUDGE

At present, water is drawn from the Queen Lane reservoir directly into the adjacent filter beds. That process tends to keep the beds filled with sludge and requires almost continual cleaning of the filters, it was explained.

When the new plant is completed, water will be drawn through 11-foot-diameter tunnel into the upper story of the two-story treatment plant. It then will pass through a baffle into the lower basin of the plant, which is equipped with straight-line sludge collectors. After the sludge has been removed, the water will pass through two eight-foot tunnels into either end of the present filter beds.

Sheldrake said the use of the preliminary-treatment plant "will provide almost perfect water to put on the filters" and thus give residents of a wide area extending generally west of Broad st. and north of Hunting Park ave. better water than they have ever tasted.

### FIRST STEP IN PROGRAM

Erection of the new plant is the first step in the modernization of the entire pumping station, according to Sheldrake.

Other projects include the installation of electric pumps and a complete chemical storage building. The latter structure will be eight stories high and will be in front of the treatment plant. It will contain laboratories and administration offices.

It was estimated that improvement of the filters will cost \$33,900 and the new equipment will cost \$349,600.

The Queen Lane projects are part of the city's \$37,381,500 program to improve its drinking water supply. That figure includes \$13,948,000 for water-treatment facilities and \$17,383,500 for the distribution system.

### OZONATION PLANT BUILT

Last year an ozonation plant, largest in the world, was placed in service at a cost of \$723,000 to eliminate tastes and odors from water in West Philadelphia.

At the Lardner's Point pumping station, work costing \$503,419 has been completed, while improvement of the Torresdale pumping station at a cost of \$1,698,000 is nearing com-

## State GOP Backs Water Authority to Supply Phila.

By JOSEPH H. MILLER

Creation of a State Water Authority to bring Philadelphia's drinking supply from a Pocono watershed will be proposed in the Republican State platform to be adopted by the party's State committee at a meeting in Pittsburgh next Saturday.

The decision to recommend the creation of the water authority was reached last night at a meeting of Philadelphia Republican leaders, Gov. James H. Duff and former Judge John S. Fine, the party's nominees for Senator and Governor. The meeting was held at the Barclay.

### CONSOLIDATION SUPPORTED

Three other proposals to effect improvements in Philadelphia were agreed upon at the meeting, it was said.

They called for:

Creation of a Philadelphia Port Authority along the lines of the recent New Jersey proposal for the purpose of expanding the city's waterfront.

Support of the city-county consolidation constitutional amendment when it comes before the Legislature for a second time next January.

State aid to the Philadelphia General Hospital and Philadelphia Hospital for Contagious Diseases for the care of mental and tubercular patients.

### OTHER STATES AFFECTED

In addition to Duff and Fine, those attending the meeting included Republican City Chairman William J. Morrow, Mrs. Edna R. Carroll, vice chairman of the Republican City Committee; Republican State Chairman M. Harvey Taylor, Sheriff Austin Meehan, County Commissioner Morton Witkin and Councilman Louis Schwartz.

During the meeting the conferees

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State Federal-mat y program to stop the discharge of mine wastes into the Schuylkill and clean out the 30,000,000 tons of silt now clogging the river bed.

### Orders Given Communities

As a corollary, the State Sanitary Water Board has ordered communities along the river as far upstream as Reading which now have primary sewage treatment works to install complete treatment facilities within the next two years.

That order is meeting considerable resistance. Communities above Reading have no treatment

contacted City Solicitor Frank F. Trusport to obtain information concerning the legal aspects of the Philadelphia program.

The proposed plan to establish a water authority calls for cooperation between the States of New Jersey and New York for the construction of dams in the upper Delaware River to bring the water supply to Philadelphia and communities along the line.

Although the water authority plan has been agreed upon, details of the proposal have not been worked out. Before arriving at a detailed plan, the conferees will confer with the Interstate Commission for the Delaware River Basin (INCODEL).

Several years ago, when plans were discussed to bring Philadelphia's water supply from the Poconos, it was estimated the cost of such a program would approximate more than \$200,000,000.



# OLD GOP CLIQUE RUNS WATER DEPT.

## Escobedo hires Chicago firm at 50g to 'assist'

By HERBERT D. REIS  
(DAILY NEWS Staff Member)

Following the hiring of nine out-of-town consultants to aid in creating a new Civil Service setup, several of them at \$1000 per month, Frank J. Escobedo, personnel director, has signed an additional \$50,000 contract with a Chicago firm, to "assist" his department.

Details of the new arrangement were disclosed today with discovery of an agreement with Public Administration Service, an Illinois corporation, which will be paid as much as \$80 per day for the service of some of its staff members, although the enterprise is described in the contract as existing "not for pecuniary profit."

### HIGH SALARIES

Some of the other experts which the city will retain will be paid from \$40 to \$60 per day; another group will be compensated at rates ranging from \$50 to \$65. The \$80 rate is higher than the daily compensation of Mayor Clark. The Mayor's annual salary is \$25,000.

While the arrangement bearing the signature of Escobedo as well as that of H. F. Pope, executive director of Public Administration Service, stipulates that this organization shall not be paid more than \$50,000 for a job survey and a job classification and other work it was explained the plan may cost the city twice that sum. That is because this group is to "assist" in the work, while the municipality must supply most of the personnel, and an estimated additional \$50,000 may be involved in the undertaking.

Considerable confusion was created when the first copy of the contract was made public. Under the law, all contracts are subject to public scrutiny. This agreement did not bear the signature of Lennox L. Moak, finance director, although under the new City Charter he must approve all such undertakings. One Chicago employee of the corporation was already at work on the job survey and job classification, despite the fact that City Controller Stephen E. McLoughlin, Jr., had not yet seen the agreement. Under the Charter likewise the City Controller must

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## Chicago firm hired at 50g by Escobedo

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certify on the contract that the necessary funds are available.

### LEGAL FORM APPROVAL

The contract had been approved only as to "legal form" as required by law, by City Solicitor Abraham L. Freedman and one of his assistants, Joseph Gaffney, Jr.

Already, Public Administration Service is receiving a separate \$30,000 for assisting Moak to reorganize the municipal finance system. A staff of Chicagoans is likewise at work in the Finance Department.

Unlike other experts previously retained by the Personnel Office, the new group is not to have food and lodging at the expense of the city. The \$50,000 contract stipulates that the rates of pay fixed are partly in "lieu of subsistence." This was interpreted as meaning that because of the high pay allotted, there was to be no additional compensation for hotel bills and meals.

There are 17 paragraphs vaguely outlining what Public Administration Service is to do. The following are samples:

"Development and/or review of project materials and arrangements for which the Service shares responsibility and intermittent short term participations in Philadelphia."

"The project as tentatively defined subject to such improvisation as may be necessary and

practical to provide preliminary information for the budgetary process attending the calendar and fiscal year 1953."

"Assist generally in the integration of the new plans and procedures with existing systems and records."

It is understood the \$50,000 limit does not include telephone service. That would be an additional cost to the city. Office space must likewise be provided by the municipality. Cost of travel in and around the city by the Chicago experts must be borne by the taxpayers.

## Fine Keeps C Between Morr

## FOUR HORSEMAN CREATE UNREST IN WATER DEPT.

The old GOP clique, known as "the four horsemen," which ran the Water Bureau in the last Republican regime, is still running the new Water Department set-up in the Democratic administration.

And employees claim that the clique is responsible for the unrest and dissension which have created a major labor-relations headache for Mayor Joseph S. Clark, Jr., and his cabinet.

The departmental employees identify "the four horsemen" as: Elbert J. Taylor, former Chief of the Water Bureau, now Chief of Operations.

Charles Vickerman, former Assistant Chief of the Bureau, now assistant chief of operations and the man in charge of personnel.

William R. Webster, former auditor in charge of Water Bureau payrolls, who now holds a similar job.

Frank Gallagher, former chief clerk of the Water Bureau, who now holds the same title in the new department.

These four men rule the roost on the 8th floor of City Hall Annex, while Water Commissioner Samuel Baxter, who is in command of the department, sits on the 11th floor and, it was thought, knows nothing of what is going on except what these

(Continued on Last Page)

## FOUR HORSEMAN CREATE UNREST IN WATER DEPT.

(Continued from Page 1)

four men tell him. Last week, it became known around City Hall and the Annex, however, that Baxter has not been fooled even though he has been sitting three floors above "the four horsemen."

It was said that the Commissioner was "fully aware" of the conditions which had been brought to his attention and that he was busy making a private investigation.

Baxter even was quoted as

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saying that he was "sick and tired" of giving orders and not having them carried out and that he was "getting to the bottom of the whole mess."

Among the "conditions" which the department employees say are responsible for the unrest and dissension, are threats to elderly per diem clerical workers of assignment to pick and shovel work; favoritism to other employees through civil service classifications while jobholders who took examinations successfully are by-passed.

Overtime payments to favored employees and "beating the brains" out of others not favored by the clique also are charged by the employees.

The employees charge that Republican ward leaders still are able to get favors done in the Water Department through their connections with "the four horsemen," some of them having been GOP wheelhorses for years.

The employees say that only a major shakeup in the department will set things right and restore efficiency and they are looking with great anticipation for the results of Commissioner Baxter's investigation.

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# 1946 City Plan to Improve Water Is Branded Failure

INQUIRER - 4/23/49

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The 1946 program launched with so much fanfare to give Philadelphia palatable water has collapsed, the Citizens' Council on City Planning said yesterday in a blistering survey of the work of the Bureau of Water.

The report carefully traced the history of the deterioration of the city's water in the last 40 years and the failure of all moves to map and execute long range programs since the first such attempt in 1920.

The 1946 plan has gone the same way, with only one-sixth of the money which citizens believed would go toward giving them tasteless and colorless water, actually being spent on new treatment facilities, the report said. Instead, most of the money went to lay new mains and fix old ones.

## LACK OF PLANS CHARGED

And no detailed plans have been made to spend the \$12,000,000 on which voters will be asked to pass in November, with the "obvious danger" that this money also will dribble away in patch-and-fix jobs on the whole city water system, the report declared.

Nonetheless, in its final 17 recommendations, the Citizens' Council recommended that city water should neither be farmed out to a private company nor put under a separate authority but should be continued as a municipal operation. But it urged a completely revised Bureau of Water and perhaps even a new city Department of Public Utilities administering the huge business operation which water supply represents.

## RED FEATHER AGENCY

The Citizens' Council which drafted this report is a Red Feather agency comprised of representatives of 125 civic organizations and headed by E. Walter Hudson, a hotelman. Vice presidents are Harold W. Brightman, president of Lit Brothers; Walter P. Miller, Jr., chairman of the Committee of Seventy, and Benjamin W. Frazier, Germantown manager for the Philadelphia Gas Works Co.

The report was sprinkled with

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observations showing that 30 percent of the Water Bureau's 1000 employees are more than 60 years old, that in one month the Water Bureau had on file citizens' complaints of 46,000 defective water meters, while 14,630 meters were in its shops awaiting repair—and still only half the city's 470,000 water-users had meters at all.

## ANTIQUATED BILLING

In addition to too many being too old, the employees of the Water Bureau work under a complex "job classification" system of 109 separate job titles, and are hampered by a bad administrative set-up, an antiquated billing procedure and tight-fisted City Council control, the report said.

Present officials of the Department of Public Works and the Water Bureau "can take pride" in improvements "completed in the face of formidable obstacles," the report said.

"But the fact remains that Philadelphia's water supply is still not satisfactory," it added. "Approved plans have been disregarded, urgently needed improvements have been pressed with insufficient vigor, suggesting that both past and present management of the system is in some measure responsible for the continued existence of a water problem in Philadelphia."

## 'MILKED OF PROFITS'

In justice to the Water Bureau, the report adds, citizens should be aware that for years the water system was "milked" of an annual "profit" of two to three million dollars on the sale of water—money which was diverted to other purposes by City Council while the water system was allowed to decay.

And the Water Bureau has never gotten any budget credit for its job of maintaining 20,910 fire hydrants and two networks of high pressure fire mains, the report said.

The scale of the problem confronting the city was emphasized by the data prepared by the Citizens' Council on the city water system as it stands today after 30 years' neglect.

## SUPPLIES 470,000 CUSTOMERS

"It's a big business, supplying almost 470,000 customers with a daily average of 350 million gallons of water. During summer months this average is exceeded. On the day of peak demand last year the output was almost 470 million gallons, or 117 percent of rated capacity.

"The plant, which includes five raw water pumping stations, five filter plants, eight filtered water pumping stations, two filtered water reservoirs, two high pressure fire service pumping stations, almost 2800 miles of main and 20,500 fire hydrants, represents a capital investment of over \$100,000,000."

## MONEY IS DIVERTED

The 1946 program's timetable has been ignored, and money remaining from the unachieved 1940 program has been diverted toward re-

pairs and laying of new mains for new housing, the survey said.

Enough "studies" have been made of Philadelphia water, it observed, and as its first recommendation declared:

"1.—A comprehensive waterworks improvement program covering at least the next 10 years should be promptly developed on the basis of existing surveys and proposals."

## OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Citizens' Council then made 16 more specific recommendations:

"2.—The program should be directed toward improvement of the quantity and quality water which can be provided from present sources of supply.

"3.—The program should include projects to permit drawing all of Philadelphia's water from the Delaware River at the Torresdale intake and to permit abandonment of the Schuylkill as a regular source of supply.

"4.—The program should have as its immediate objective the complete installation, within the next two years, of all necessary equipment to remove objectionable tastes and odors in the water and to reduce its mineral content.

"5.—The program should incorporate a schedule for systematic maintenance of the distribution system.

"6.—Metering should be extended to all water services during the next five years.

"7.—As a precaution against possible future inadequacy of the existing Delaware River source of supply, Philadelphia should safeguard its claims to the Wallpack Bend reservoir site.

"8.—All waterworks revenue should be reserved for the operation, maintenance and improvement of the water supply system.

"9.—Delinquencies in payment of water bills should be reduced by enforcement of existing regulations.

"10.—Both current and delinquent water charges should be rendered on a single bill.

"11.—The Water Bureau's accounting methods should be revised and improved.

"12.—Repair of defective meters should be speeded.

"13.—Leakage surveys of the water supply system should be continued.

"14.—The number of job classifications in the Bureau of Water should be reduced.

"15.—The overbalance of older employees in the Bureau of Water should be eliminated, and a compulsory plan instituted for the pensioned retirement of City employees.

"16.—The water supply system should be operated as an independent municipal utility with a segregated budget.

"17.—Consideration should be given to the advisability of establishing a new Department of Public Utilities."

## THOSE TERRIBLE U.S. DOLLARS

vance Philadelphia toward the goal of more and better water, the Citizens Council on City Planning reported yesterday.

Money allocated for improvement and expansion of treatment facilities has been dissipated piecemeal for maintenance and rehabilitation, the council, which represents about 100 civic organizations, reported.

Of the nearly \$9,000,000 originally allocated for the program, it was said, less than one-third was spent for treatment facilities.

## Pollution Seen on Rise

Control of taste and color in the city water has become increasingly difficult, pollution in the Schuylkill and Delaware has risen and maintenance, modernization and improvement of the water supply system has been seriously neglected, the report stated.

The council, noting that the 1946 program "has not been substantially followed" and that its timetables have not been met, warned that the \$20,000,000 the City plans to spend on water improvements in the next three years may be similarly spent for purposes

gators said, continued management of the water system by the City itself would be preferable to management by either a private company or by a water authority.

## Program Recommended

The report recommended the following steps:

Development of a ten-year program toward improving the quality and quantity of water from present sources.

Eventual abandonment of the Schuylkill as a source of supply.

Complete installation within two years of equipment to remove objectionable taste, odor and mineral content from city water.

Extension of metering to include all water services.

Use of all water revenues for the water system itself.

Reduction of water rent delinquencies by improved billing and accounting and through speedy repair of defective meters.

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